Ministry of Environment

Annual Report for 2015-16

saskatchewan.ca/environment

Government of Saskatchewan

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Letters of Transmittal

Her Honour, the Honourable Vaughn Solomon Schofield, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan

May it Please Your Honour:

I respectfully submit the Ministry of Environment's annual report for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

I am particularly proud of the Ministry's progress this year in working towards outcomes that manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province, its people and its future.

Our operational plan for 2015-16 strived towards five significant goals: reduced risk and harm from environmental contamination; increased regulatory confidence; a clean and safe environment for communities; productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes; and high client service satisfaction.

Our accomplishments this year are evident and impressive, including: implementation of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code; establishing an online service for hunting, angling and trapping licences; protection from aquatic invasive species; and no serious injuries or lives lost during an unprecedented wildfire season in Saskatchewan.

I would like to thank Ministry of Environment teams and employees, government colleagues and our many partners and stakeholders for their input, stewardship and support in ensuring a healthy environment, now and for future generations.

Respectfully submitted,

Herb Cox
Minister of Environment

The Honourable Herb Cox, Minister of Environment

I have the honour of submitting the Annual Report of the Ministry of Environment for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016.

The Ministry's annual report was prepared under my direction in accordance with government's system of planning, measuring and reporting. I am ultimately responsible for the financial administration and management control of the Ministry. All key actions and associated implications contained in this report are, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and reliable.

Cam Swan
Deputy Minister of Environment

Introduction

This annual report presents the Ministry of Environment's results for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2016. It provides results of publicly committed strategies, key actions and performance measures identified in the *Ministry of Environment Plan for 2015-16*. It also reflects progress toward commitments from the Government Direction for 2015-16: Keeping Saskatchewan Strong, the *Saskatchewan Plan for Growth – Vision 2020 and Beyond,* throne speeches and the Ministry.

The annual report demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to effective public performance reporting, transparency and accountability to the public.

Alignment with Government's Direction

The Ministry's activities in 2015-16 align with the Government of Saskatchewan's vision and four goals:

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

- **Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people**
- **Meeting the challenges of growth**
- **Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people**
- **Delivering responsive and responsible government**

Together, all ministries and agencies support the achievement of government's four goals and work towards a secure and prosperous Saskatchewan.

Overview

The *Saskatchewan Growth Plan – Vision 2020 and Beyond* continued to guide the Ministry of Environment in 2015-16, with its mission, vision and mandate all contributing to the success of the plan.

The Ministry's mission is to continue providing science-based solutions, compliance and mitigation measures aimed at protecting the environment, safeguarding communities and helping to ensure balanced economic growth and a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan residents.

The Ministry's vision is to manage and protect Saskatchewan's environment for the well-being of the province, its people and its future.

The Ministry's mandate is to manage the health of Saskatchewan's environment in a respectful, responsible and enforceable manner that balances growth with sustainable development through objective, transparent and informed decision-making and stewardship.

The Ministry's strategic outcomes are:

- Reduced risk and harm from environmental contamination;
- A clean and safe environment for communities;
- Regulatory certainty and transparency;
- Productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes; and
- High client service satisfaction.

Success in achieving the Ministry's mandate and outcomes is defined through: excellent air quality, protected landscapes and safe communities, clean and secure water resources, healthy habitats, and economic growth balanced with environmental health.

The Ministry consists of the following branches:

Reporting to the Deputy Minister

Communication Services is responsible for correspondence and referrals, legislative services, public and media services, production and freedom of information and protection of privacy.

Wildfire Management* plans and delivers forest fire management activities, including detection, preparedness, suppression and protection of people, communities and infrastructure. This includes training programs, an aerial firefighting fleet, a radio communications network, meteorological services, public wildfire awareness and educational programs, and out-of-province wildfire assistance when required.

**Wildfire Management was part of the Environmental Protection and Audit Division for part of 2015-16, and began reporting to the Deputy Minister in August 2015.*

Resource Management and Compliance Division

Compliance and Field Services develops and delivers province-wide compliance and field enforcement programs through its team of conservation officers, to protect the environment and manage natural resource use. The branch also provides services to the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport and the Water Security Agency through shared-services agreements.

Forest Service sustainably manages provincial forests through the licensing of forest products and oversight of forest industry planning, harvesting and forest renewal. It collects Crown dues and fees from harvested forest products, monitors and controls damage to forests from insects and disease, renews historically depleted forest lands, and provides forest inventory and resource analysis services.

Fish and Wildlife conserves, manages and ensures sustainable allocation of fish and wildlife populations to maintain healthy biodiversity for the recreational, social and economic benefit of Saskatchewan people. The branch delivers programs such as the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre (SKCDC), the South of the Divide project and the Boreal Caribou project through collaboration with partners in industry, environmental non-government organizations, academia and other government agencies.

Landscape Stewardship develops, manages, allocates and designates all Crown land administered by the Ministry, with a focus on the integration of First Nations and Métis interests and rights into environmental and resource management programs and services.

Environmental Protection and Audit Division

Environmental Protection manages programs that focus on mining operations, industrial and commercial operations, landfills, hazardous materials spills and environmental emergencies, impacted (contaminated) sites, hazardous substances and waste, dangerous goods storage and waste stewardship.

Environmental Assessment manages the environmental impact assessment process, which includes screening projects that require review based on the potential for significant environmental impacts or public concern regarding potential environmental changes.

Technical Resources provides scientific and technical leadership and expertise on complex environmental issues, delivers the air quality program, and co-ordinates federal-provincial research and standards development.

Compliance Audit completes environmental audits and collects and assesses evidence to determine the level of compliance by persons or organizations with a permit, approval or authorization pursuant to any act or regulation administered by the Ministry.

Climate Change monitors and reports on the province's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and develops equivalency frameworks to align with federal policy and sectors, including recent coal-fired electricity legislation. The branch also works with other levels of government to inform a pan-Canadian framework on climate change and coordinates work resulting from meetings with provincial and federal governments and international climate agreements.

Environmental Support Division

Corporate Services oversees accounting, financial services and reporting, including internal auditing, budgeting and forecasting, contract advice, mailroom and property management services. In addition, the Client Service Office helps the public with inquiries, applications and land dispositions.

Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement oversees all strategic planning and reporting, risk, performance and business continuity management, as well as workplace safety and continuous improvement efforts.

Results-Based Regulation and Code Management oversees the development and delivery of modern governance tools, such as the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. Information Management and Technology leads the Ministry's online business services and is responsible for the long-term strategy for environmental information management and technology services.

Ministry Staff Complement

The Ministry budgeted 866.4 full-time equivalents (FTEs) to deliver its programs and services in 2015-16, with actual utilization of 889.9 FTEs. The overage was due to the increased workload associated with extreme wildfire activity in 2015, which required significant overtime and seasonal staff extensions.

Lives and communities spared by provincial team approach to 2015 wildfire season

The 2015 wildfire season was one for Saskatchewan's history books. Although prior years saw more wildfires and other seasons had more forest area burned in the province, the wildfires of 2015 were unprecedented in their impact on Saskatchewan people.

The numbers tell part of the story. Provincially, 720 wildfires burned 1.7 million hectares of forest, an area three times the size of Prince Edward Island. More than 99 per cent of this area was burned by 151 large wildfires greater than 100 hectares each. Almost half of these fires occurred near communities, burning almost 700,000 hectares and prompting more than 13,000 northern residents to evacuate. More than 50 northern communities faced risk from large wildfires or significant smoke, with the haze affecting air quality all over the province.

The 2015 season began early and stayed active, with the province's first wildfire reported on April 6. The wildfire activity escalated as stretches of warm, dry weather created volatile conditions. Human-caused fires dominated the spring, then lightning starts later in the season. A dry forest, punctuated by thousands of lightning strikes, erupted into dozens of wildfires at once during June and July, testing Saskatchewan's firefighting capacity and creating a provincial emergency.

Firefighters battled extreme fire behaviour not seen in decades, prioritizing wildfires that threatened human life and communities. With extreme wildfires in British Columbia, Alberta and the Northwest Territories at the same time, available resources across Canada and North America were soon stretched thin.

"In the face of a very large and volatile wildfire situation, we were able to successfully collaborate and deliver on our three most important outcomes – ensuring public safety, protecting communities and critical public infrastructure, and making sure that all of our staff and partners returned home safely," says Steve Roberts, Executive Director of the Ministry of Environment's Wildfire Management Branch.

Saskatchewan's response was extraordinary. The Wildfire Management Branch was supported by the rest of the Ministry, other Government of Saskatchewan ministries and agencies, communities and hundreds of volunteers. For the first time in 35 years, Canadian military personnel also came to help, with more than 600 soldiers working alongside Saskatchewan firefighters. Assistance also came from eight other provinces, as well as from South Dakota and the U.S. Forest Service.

"These situations hit close to home for us, as wildfire staff often find themselves protecting their own homes and families," says Roberts. "So it was a point of pride for us when the communities, where our staff live and work, acknowledged the tremendous efforts put forward to manage an extremely difficult wildfire season."

Working as one team, provincial responders successfully prevented fatalities and serious injuries during the provincial emergency. No communities were lost and no major damage to provincial infrastructure occurred.

However, 10 permanent residences in four communities, 103 remote cabins and seven commercial facilities burned, despite the best efforts of firefighters. But in the end, thousands of homes and cabins still stand because of exceptional teamwork within the Ministry and across government during one of the most challenging wildfire seasons in living memory.

> *"In the face of a very large and volatile wildfire situation, we were able to successfully collaborate and deliver on our three most important outcomes."*
>
> *- Steve Roberts, Executive Director, Wildfire Management Branch*

What Ministry strategy does this support?
A clean and safe environment for communities

Government of Saskatchewan

Sustainable forests, now with less red tape

The important job of managing Saskatchewan's forests is now much more efficient, thanks to some innovative thinking and a lot of hard work within the Ministry of Environment. Two processes designed to protect the environment, forest management planning and environmental assessment, were streamlined in 2015. The result: better use of government regulatory resources and reduced costs for industry.

A 20-year forest management plan (FMP) outlines a long-term vision of how a company plans to sustainably manage forest resources on its licence area. Under the law, an approved FMP is a must-have before the Ministry of Environment can issue a long-term forest licence.

In the past, FMPs were also required to undergo an environmental impact assessment and receive ministerial approval before going ahead. Developing an FMP as well as an accompanying environmental impact statement was a huge and expensive undertaking for forestry companies, and the two parallel approval processes were cumbersome for both industry and government. Both sides saw duplication and an opportunity to simplify. But changes – big changes – in the regulatory framework would be required to make it happen.

"We saw the problem and set about trying to solve it," says Bob Wynes, executive director of the Ministry's Forest Service Branch in 2015. "We knew a solution would not be simple or quick but we also knew that the payoff in efficiency would be well worth the effort."

It took 10 years of hard work by Ministry staff, several legislative amendments and a brand new Saskatchewan Environmental Code, but today, approval of the FMP alone fulfills all the previous requirements. The planning process, including updated standards under the code, will help ensure that environmental results are as good, or even better, than before. The streamlined process is also good for business, as companies now developing new FMPs can attest.

The plan for the Pasquia-Porcupine Forest Management Agreement area, jointly held by Weyerhauser and Edgewood, is one of the first being developed with the new process.

"We feel this is an example of government eliminating red tape and duplication of effort for industry, thereby increasing our competitiveness in the marketplace," says Mel Cadrain, Weyerhaeuser's general manager of timberlands in Hudson Bay. "We feel that this regulatory change has saved our company approximately $250,000, which adds directly to our bottom line and shareholder value."

Mission accomplished.

> *"We saw the problem and set about trying to solve it."*
>
> *- Bob Wynes, Executive Director, Forest Service Branch*

What Ministry strategy does this support?
High client satisfaction

Government of Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan prevents invasive species from finding homes in provincial waters

The Government of Saskatchewan amended provincial regulations in 2015 to strengthen the ability of conservation officers to inspect, quarantine and decontaminate watercraft known, or suspected, to contain aquatic invasive species.

Aquatic invasive species are organisms not native to Saskatchewan, and therefore do not belong in our natural habitat. Species such as zebra and quagga mussels can be impossible to eliminate if they become established in a waterbody, and have the potential to severely impact aquatic habitats, fisheries, valuable recreational resources and water-related infrastructure.

Zebra and quagga mussels in particular are capable of heavily colonizing on hard and soft surfaces, including docks, boats, break walls, beaches and along the bottoms of lakes and rivers. The mussels can clog water intake structures and significantly increase costs for irrigation, power generation and municipal water supply. Invasive mussels can attach to watercraft and related equipment, and spread when boats are moved from one waterbody to another.

Tests in 2015 confirm Saskatchewan's waterbodies remain free from the presence of invasive species, including zebra and quagga mussels. However, these small but destructive mussels have been discovered in neighbouring provinces and states. Manitoba recently reported that zebra mussel larva was found in a water sample from Cedar Lake, approximately 265 kilometres east of Nipawin. Invasive species have also been confirmed in Manitoba's Lake Winnipeg, the Red River and in North Dakota waterbodies.

"The government's prevention efforts in 2015 focused on the southeast region of the province, along the Saskatchewan/ Manitoba border," explains Kevin Callele, executive director of the Ministry's Compliance and Field Services Branch. "Conservation officers also monitored organized events that attract watercraft from outside the province. Watercraft deemed to be low risk through an interview and inspection process were allowed to continue on. Watercraft deemed high risk underwent a more thorough check and possible decontamination."

These checks will help determine the risk a watercraft poses with respect to transporting aquatic invasive species into the province. If any invasive species are found during an inspection, the Ministry may require a quarantine period followed by decontamination and re-inspection of the watercraft.

New federal regulations in June 2015 complement the amended provincial regulations by enabling Canada Border Services Agency officers to check private and commercial watercraft entering the province from the United States.

> *"Prevention efforts in 2015 focused on the southeast region of the province, along the Saskatchewan / Manitoba border."*
>
> *- Kevin Callele, Executive Director, Compliance and Field Services Branch*

What Ministry strategy does this support?
Productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes

Government of Saskatchewan

Qualified persons bring forward innovative environmental solutions in Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan's Environmental Code brought skilled people and new solutions to the forefront of environmental protection and regulation in 2015-16.

Implemented in 2015, the code is the cornerstone of the Ministry's new approach to environmental regulation. It supports government's focus on client-centred service that fosters innovation, enhances environmental protection and stimulates the province's growing economy. The first edition of the code includes 16 chapters, addressing the management and protection of air, land and natural resources.

More than 200 experts and industry leaders helped create the code with a common sense goal in mind – to focus on results rather than process when addressing environmental priorities.

"With environmental protection plans now being developed, specialists in air, land, water and other disciplines can provide detailed expertise," says Keith Wallace, a professional chemist who helped develop the code. "The result is plans that are more robust, predictable and easier for industry to implement."

Qualified persons (QPs) – or external experts in their field – are at the centre of the code's principles. QPs must have the core skills and competencies necessary to carry out the work. Project proponents can take two directions: acceptable solutions, which rely on established standards, or alternative solutions, which must be signed off by a QP who is approved by the Minister of Environment. Alternative solutions encompass both creative and unique approaches as well as some well-known methods that may fall outside the code's acceptable solution standards.

In 2015-16, 104 acceptable approaches were registered with the Ministry, while 35 alternative solutions – 83 per cent of which were accepted – were put forward by the private sector. The learning and innovation in these new solutions is advancing the province's objectives with respect to environmental protection.

Wallace, also a Saskatchewan Research Council contractor, is a QP working on an environmental protection plan that falls under the Industrial Air Source Chapter of the code for members of the Saskatchewan Potash Producers Association. Under provincial law, industrial emitters are required to have their plans in place by the end of 2019.

"The plan is going to be much more detailed and specific than the existing permitting process," says Wallace. "The end result is going to provide more clarity and certainty to the producers, while providing a higher degree of environmental protection."

According to Jeff Paterson, a manager in the Ministry's Results-Based Regulation and Code Management Branch, Wallace is a great example of a person with the in-depth knowledge and experience to assist with an environmental protection plan, but who needed a QP designation to do the work.

The code will continue to evolve, as a new advisory committee considers new chapters to address the storage of hazardous substances, linear activities such as roads, forestry management and work in or near water.

As these standards evolve, the Ministry's role in overseeing and auditing environmental protection solutions will remain strong. That's a very important consideration, according to Wallace.

"The Ministry ultimately maintains responsibility to approve projects, and proponents have to report annually on their plan results," says Wallace. "This is about everyone working together in sync – industry, professionals and the Ministry."

> *"This is about everyone working together in sync – industry, professionals and the Ministry."*
>
> *- Keith Wallace, Professional Chemist*

What Ministry strategy does this support?
Increased regulatory certainty and transparency

Government of Saskatchewan

Ministry supports illegal garbage cleanup in Prince Albert

If it takes a village to raise a child, as the familiar saying goes, it can take an entire community to tackle a major challenge.

Prince Albert did exactly that in 2015, with interested businesses, local leaders, service groups, municipalities, enforcement agencies and provincial ministries all pitching in to clean up illegally dumped garbage in the city and surrounding area. Thanks to five community cleanups, the first on Earth Day in April, the partners and local volunteers cleaned up nearly 60 sites in the Prince Albert area and collected some 33,000 kilograms of waste in 2015.

The initiative kicked off in December 2014 when the Ministry of Environment sent a letter to local organizations, which sparked a wave of interest that helped create the *Keep Prince Albert and Area Beautiful Committee.*

"It was a great learning experience," says Charlene Tebbutt, Manager of Communications and Events for the Prince Albert and District Chamber of Commerce. "I didn't realize, in Prince Albert and across the province, a lot of garbage is dumped illegally."

For instance, old or broken appliances can leak chemicals that are hazardous to the environment, especially near water. Plastics do not break down and can be dangerous for fish and wildlife. Even seemingly safe items, such as bags of branches and leaves, are fire hazards.

The items in those 60 sites were sometimes alarming. From abandoned couches to fridges to tires, the various discarded litter confirmed that illegal dumping was a real concern.

"These materials can pose a serious environmental risk by polluting water supplies and contaminating soil, which can potentially cause health issues for humans and wildlife alike," says Rich Hildebrand, a conservation officer with the Ministry of Environment.

"We want people to consider options, whether for electronics recycling or tires, even secondhand stores for children's toys and clothing," adds Tebbutt.

Saskatchewan Polytechnic students created a GIS map of dump sites which helped determine the resources needed for cleanup. Another student prepared a waste management survey, from which 400 local respondents identified approximately 80 illegal dump areas.

To support the educational goal, a children's colouring book was produced and a website launched to provide household hazard waste collection and community cleanup days, landfill fees and pictures showing volunteers in action. The site generated more than 30,000 views and the Facebook page has more than 200 likes.

"In our second year of the pilot, we want to really build further interest in the community. There are people and businesses doing cleanups all the time, and so if we inform them of our activities, maybe we can get them out participating in our cleanups this year too."

The Ministry maintains its active role in supporting the *Keep Prince Albert and Area Beautiful Committee* through education and resourcing, and hopes in the future it can work in co-operation to encourage other cities, towns and villages to spearhead their own local cleanup efforts.

Project partners included Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Prince Albert Tourism, the City of Prince Albert, Prince Albert and District Chamber of Commerce, the Council of Canadians, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, RCMP, Prince Albert Police Service, RMs of Buckland and Prince Albert, Saskatchewan Ministry of Highways and Infrastructure, Provincial Corrections, Saskatchewan Penitentiary (Correctional Services Canada), Prince Albert Wildlife Federation, Saskatchewan Snowmobile Association, Ranch Ehrlo Society, Greenland Waste and the North Central Solid Waste Management Corporation.

> *"Many materials can pose a serious environmental risk."*
>
> *- Rich Hildebrand, Conservation Officer*

What Ministry strategy does this support?

Reduced risk and harm from environmental contamination

A clean and safe environment for communities

Government of Saskatchewan

Progress in 2015-16

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

How does the Ministry of Environment support Saskatchewan's *Plan for Growth?* The Ministry promotes and regulates responsible development and industrial activity, including protection of the environment through environmental assessment, management of industrial sites, and compliance activities.

Ministry Goal

Reduced risk and harm from environmental contamination

Strategy

Environmental protection is proactive.

Key Actions and Results

> Action

Implement a results-based model that encourages innovation and use of alternative solutions to improve protection of the environment.

New compliance tool comes into force

The Saskatchewan Environmental Code is the first of its kind in Canada and the cornerstone of the province's new approach to environmental regulation. On June 1, 2015, *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* came into force, along with the remaining chapters of the code, 28 standards and three sets of regulations.

January 5, 2015	June 1, 2015
Natural Resources • Forest Regeneration Assessment • Forest Data Submission • Forest Operating Plan • Forest Products Scaling • Forest Management Planning	General • Adoption of Standards Land • Discharge and Discovery • Site Assessment • Corrective Action Plan • Transfer of Responsibility for an Environmentally Impacted Site • Substance Characterization Water • Water Main • Sewer Main • Hydrostatic Testing Air • Halocarbon Control • Industrial Source (Air Quality)* ** Existing sites have until December 31, 2019 to develop an environmental protection plan. New sites are required to have one as of June 1, 2015.*

Clients propose alternative environmental solutions

The Saskatchewan Environmental Code provides regulatory clarity to enhance environmental protection and resource management, while fostering innovation, economic growth and social benefits. Solutions to environmental protection and natural resource management are often site-specific and non-standardized. The code, therefore, allows proponents to develop and propose innovative solutions that may be new to Saskatchewan or unique to particular circumstances. Proponents are free to develop alternative solutions in any manner they see fit for their activity, while still complying with applicable acts, regulations and the code.

Environmental Code - Acceptance of Proposed Alternative Solutions
April 2015 - March 2016

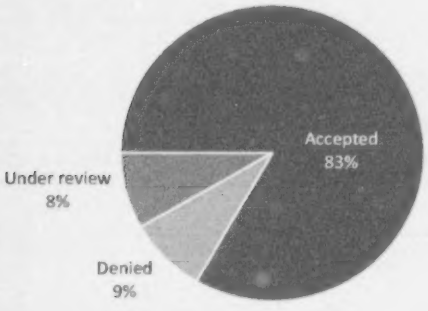


Figure – The majority of proposed alternative solutions are accepted.

Environmental Code - Alternative and Acceptable Solutions
By Code Chapter, April 2015 - March 2016

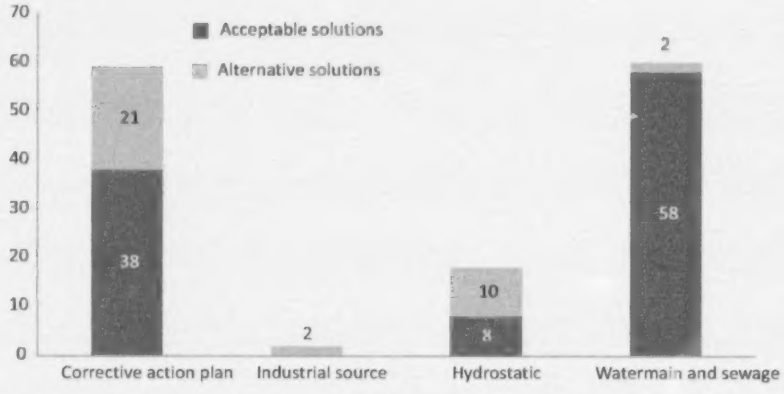


Figure – Alternative solutions can be accepted as proposed, accepted with terms, or denied.

Environmental Code - Client Inquiries
April 2015 - March 2016

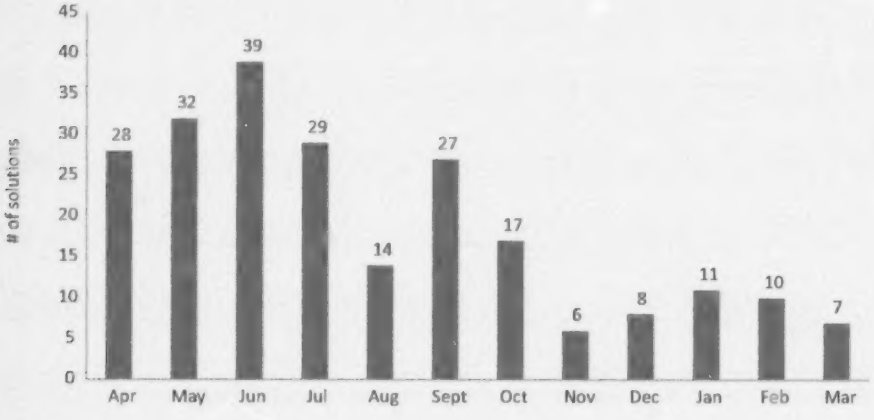


Figure – Public inquiries about the code peaked in June 2015, when the remaining 11 code chapters came into force.

Environmental Code - Qualified Person Applications
By Code Chapter, from June 2015 to March 2016

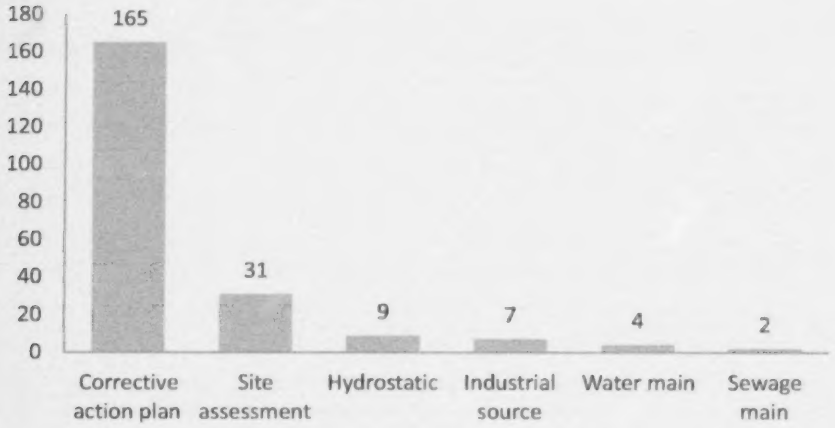


Figure – Corrective action plans relating to contaminated sites are the main reason individuals apply for ministerial-designated qualified person status.

> Action

Implement the Saskatchewan Environmental Code to reinforce recognized standards and best practices for compliance.

Streamlined approach provides clients with improved access to standards

Approximately 30 standards are now built into the Saskatchewan Environmental Code and can be found on the government's website. Standards are legal documents that establish uniform specifications, procedures, criteria, methods, processes or practices that represent minimum acceptable benchmarks for environmental management.

For example, Saskatchewan's Ambient Air Quality Standards were updated to remove outdated standards. Canada-wide standards were adopted for fine particulate matter and ozone, which are stricter than the previous provincial values. All activities in Saskatchewan must now meet the updated Ambient Air Quality Standards.

} The ability to more efficiently update environmental standards helps the Ministry and proponents stay current as science and technology evolve.

> Action

Ensure pollution prevention through effective management of impacted sites and promotion of environmental stewardship.

Inspections help build relationships and achieve environmental outcomes

Inspections are an important tool in promoting compliance and helping proponents achieve specific environmental outcomes. The number of inspections increased in 2015-16, with substantial growth in the number of landfill inspections. Action items and recommendations were issued following the inspections and timelines for completion were included for high-risk issues. Environmental protection officers ensured clients followed up on the Ministry's recommendations and when clients failed to meet the requirements, compliance action was taken.

Summary of Compliance Inspections

Type of inspection	2014-15	2015-16
Mining/Industrial Assigned Operating Facilities	106	123
Decommissioning and Reclamation or Abandoned: Mining or Industrial	11	8
Hazardous Substances and Waste Dangerous Goods Storage and Impacted Sites	7	19
Industrial Potable Water/Wastewater	19	16
Landfills	132	256
Total Number of Inspections	**275**	**422**

Action

Minimize release of pollutants through compliance activities.

New code keeps public safe from environmentally dangerous substances

Five code chapters came into force June 1, 2015 that deal specifically with contaminated sites, including reporting spills, assessing sites, providing processes for classifying hazardous and industrial waste, and implementing corrective action plans. The code now requires that any discovery of historical contamination is reported to the Ministry. The list of contaminants has been updated to align with the federal *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act,* and includes substances common in Saskatchewan.

Online registry will help identify potential hotspots

The Ministry continued developing a single risk registry database in 2015-16. Once active, the registry will allow the Ministry to track contaminated sites and monitor risks and potential danger. The database will allow the Ministry to be proactive when dealing with new chemicals or environmental situations in the province. Over time, the database will help predict future risk hotspots.

Action

Assess high-risk developments in the province to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are in place that safeguard environmental and social priorities.

High-risk projects assessed to reduce ecological footprints

The Ministry reviews and assesses new development projects proposed in Saskatchewan to ensure strong environmental and social safeguards are in place prior to approval. The Ministry's regulatory safeguards mitigate the environmental risks for low-impact projects, while high-risk projects undergo environmental impact assessment – a process that ensures an inclusive and exhaustive review is completed prior to a decision on the project's suitability to proceed, and its ability to reduce its ecological footprint and meet government's expectations. In 2015-16, the Ministry received and assessed 15 project applications for development. Of these applications, 14 were determined to have low ecological impact on the environment, while one proposal was determined to have a potentially high ecological impact. This high ecological impact thereby required an environmental impact assessment, in addition to the 11 environmental impact assessments already underway from previous years.

Breakdown of High and Low-risk Environmental Assessment Applications

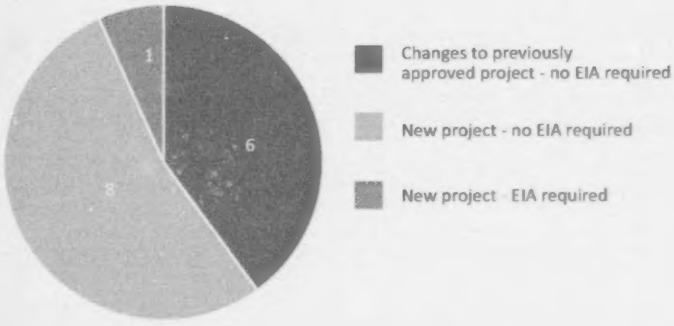


Figure – The majority of applications are new projects that don't require an environmental impact assessment.

Performance Measures

Percentage of reportable spill incidents in compliance with notification

Increase follow-up compliance on notification by 10 per cent

New standards improve spill reporting and follow-up compliance

In 2015, 94 per cent of reportable spills were in compliance with their spill notification. This is 24 per cent higher than 2014's spill compliance rate of 70 per cent. This measure represents the percentage of spills in Saskatchewan in compliance with requirements.

Measuring and improving spill compliance rates demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to results-based regulation through thorough, streamlined spill reporting procedures.

The Ministry received 847 hazardous material spill reports in 2015, compared to 769 reports in 2014 and 770 reports in 2013. This increase of 78 spill reports was largely due to more stringent reporting standards coming into effect this year, increasing the incidents that are legally reported as spills. Another factor is the increased communication between the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of the Economy on how spills are reported to both ministries.

Spills by Type

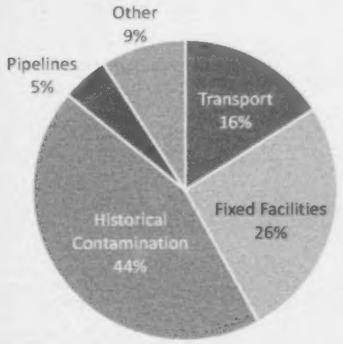


Figure – The main type of spill report is historical contamination of a site.

Spill Count

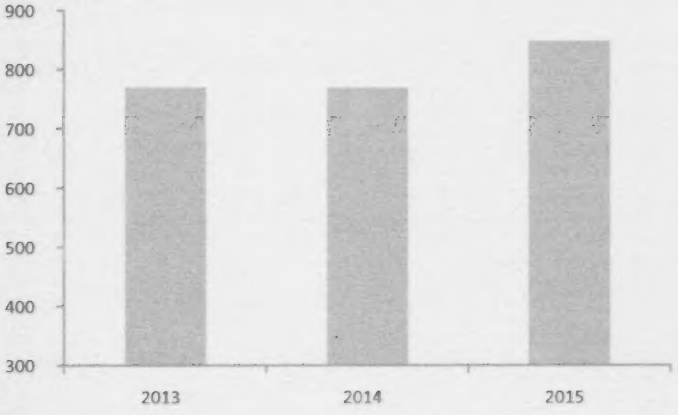


Figure – Reported spills increased in 2015 to 847 due to stricter reporting standards.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

How does the Ministry of Environment support *Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth?* The Ministry provides regulatory certainty through recognized standards for informed decision-making, which promote responsive and efficient regulations for a sustainable, competitive and diverse economy.

Ministry Goal

Increased regulatory certainty and transparency

Strategy

Decision-making is supported by a culture of innovative thinking, partnership, high-quality data and science.

Key Actions and Results

> Action

Utilize best available information and technology to assess and predict potential environmental outcomes and impacts to inform proposals for development and resource use/allocation.

Custom tool helps explore future forest scenarios

Every day, satellites provide essential information to help land managers and policy makers with decisions about natural resources. In 2014, the Ministry and the University of Saskatchewan Northern Plant Ecology Lab came together to develop a new method for building a predictive forest ecosystems map for Saskatchewan's boreal shield. In 2015, a beta-version of the tool was delivered, marking a major milestone. The tool uses publicly available imagery and satellite data and will be used to help forecast forest scenarios and develop woodland caribou range plans that will impact decisions on northern development.

> Action

Provide high-quality, accessible information for clients to encourage and facilitate environmental monitoring and client data interpretation.

Shared spatial data enhances public service and decision-making

Government geomatics initiatives are being planned to provide clients quick access to data without needing to contact multiple ministries. The Ministry of Environment continues to support the Provincial Office of Geomatics Coordination (POGC) by contributing employees and resources to the office. The POGC is instrumental in meeting long-term public service needs through the creation of an Enterprise Geographic Information System (eGIS) that will enhance decision-making through shared data and cross-ministerial support for clients.

Open data improves informed decision-making regarding wildlife habitat protection.

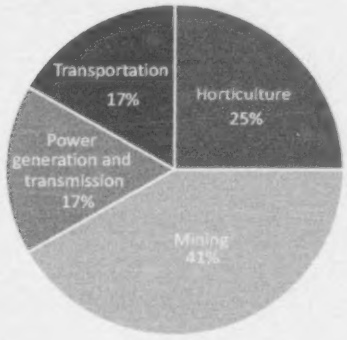
> Action

Enhance client service associated with environmental assessments and regulatory functions through a streamlined approach that maximizes efficiency while maintaining the effectiveness of core Ministry priorities for the environment.

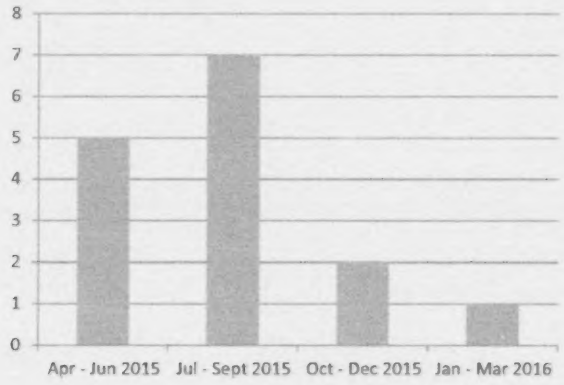
Public engagement a vital part of assessing new developments

In 2015-16, proponents prepared and made available two environmental impact statements for public review, along with the Ministry's corresponding technical review comments. Open access to information helps the public better understand what is being proposed, how it impacts the environment and what measures will be taken to mitigate those impacts. This is an important part of ensuring the public has information needed to make informed comments to the Minister prior to any decisions about a proposed project.

Environmental Assessments by Industry Sector



Applications Received



Figures – Environmental assessments are generated throughout the year from four main sectors.

> Action

Partner with universities, NGOs, intra- and inter-governmental jurisdictions and industry at the technical and policy development level to ensure best practices in environment and resource management and to ensure strategic investment in research and development.

University helps measure wildfire education effectiveness

The Ministry's Wildfire Management Branch continues to partner with University of Saskatchewan Faculty of Economics and Policy students specializing in Renewable Resource Management to develop performance metrics that evaluate the branch's education, prevention, compliance and investigation program.

The partnership aims to evaluate the impact of education and prevention programming on reducing preventable human-caused wildfires, by developing processes to measure the effectiveness of branch initiatives, including community wildfire protection, FireSmart, and compliance programs. The third year of the partnership produced models to verify program impacts, and the fourth year is expected to develop processes for industries to use in planning and implementing mitigation programs.

Partnership helps secure future of healthy, resilient landscape

A partnership with the fRI Research Institute is helping inform the province's approach to sustainable land and resource management in Crown forests. At both the operational and strategic planning levels, the partnership is influencing the ways in which logging disturbances in the Crown forest can best emulate the forest patterns found after natural disturbances such as wildfire. By managing for a more natural range of forest ages and disturbance sizes, habitat for the diversity of forest dwelling species as well as the ecosystem process that support that diversity are maintained sustainably.

> "The Healthy Landscapes Program looks at ecosystem-based principles and how they might be used to create innovative solutions for all land management, not just forestry, not just governments, but all land management." - *Dr. David Andison, Program Lead, Healthy Landscapes Program, fRI Research Institute.*

Action

Lead land-use planning that is supported by high-quality data and stakeholder engagement for appropriate development and resource allocation of Crown lands.

Modernizing Crown land management system to streamline online business

The Ministry began to develop an enterprise Crown land management system in partnership with the ministries of Agriculture and Parks, Culture and Sport to modernize online business for land dispositions. The system will streamline internal disposition tracking, invoicing, revenue collection and file inventory maintenance. A cross-ministry steering committee, working group and project team were established in 2015-16.

Action

Support ongoing modernization and implementation of environmental legislation and regulations that remove regulatory overlap while maintaining standards for public safety and protection of the environment.

New wildfire legislation simplifies and clarifies processes

Government announced new wildfire management legislation on April 1, 2015 to replace *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982*, one of the oldest pieces of wildfire legislation in Canada. The new *Wildfire Act* reduces administrative requirements, clarifies responsibility for wildfires within municipalities, enhances wildfire prevention and preparedness, and provides clear direction for industrial and commercial operators within the forest. One example is with permits to burn in or within 4.5 kilometres of the provincial forest during wildfire season; these were replaced with a simpler notification system.

The new Act also facilitates the development of wildfire chapters for the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, addressing topics including wildfire prevention and preparedness plans for industrial and commercial operations, and new buildings and structures where urban and forested areas meet.

Action

Promote a commercially-viable forest sector through a reliable forest inventory, diversification of forest products and businesses, investment in research and by encouraging sustainable use of biomass.

Online access to timber facts supports forestry proposals

During 2015-16, the Ministry of Environment supported the Ministry of the Economy by conducting timber supply analyses that described the location, quality and quantity of timber that might be available for various business development opportunities. As a result, summaries of the reports are now available online as forestry fact sheets.

Action

Build a decision-making toolkit so that a regulatory framework can be established to balance greenhouse gas emissions abatement while supporting vigorous economic growth.

Work contributes to Pan-Canadian climate change framework

As part of the development of a Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change, the Vancouver Declaration of March 3, 2016 authorized four federal/provincial/territorial (FPT) working groups to identify potential measures for government to reduce emissions. The Ministry serves as secretariat, co-ordinating the province's efforts with the following FPT working groups:

- Clean technology, innovation and jobs;
- Carbon pricing mechanisms;
- Specific mitigation opportunities; and
- Adaptation and climate resilience.

Performance Measures

Hunting, angling and trapping licence online transactions

Increase number of online hunting, angling and trapping transactions

Online sales growing

Licence sales are tracked as one indicator of Saskatchewan's economic health as well as the long-term interest in hunting, trapping and angling activities. The measure is also used as a gauge of how client services are being streamlined.

Online Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licence (HAL) sales are growing as a percentage of total sales each year. In 2015, the Ministry sold 494,691 licences, a decrease of 82,100 sales over the previous year. The total number of hunting and fishing licences in Saskatchewan fluctuates year-to-year, and typically stays between 400,000 and 500,000 purchases annually. However, the total share of online licence sales has increased steadily as Saskatchewan residents become more comfortable and familiar with the online service.

Online sales surpassed private licence issuers as the purchase method of choice in 2015. The percentage of total sales requiring a Ministry employee to oversee the transaction, either by phone or through a Ministry or park office, has been reduced by roughly one-quarter in three years, and now represents only 10 per cent of all sales transactions. This demonstrates a positive step towards a client self-service model and a simplified, streamlined approach to licence purchases.

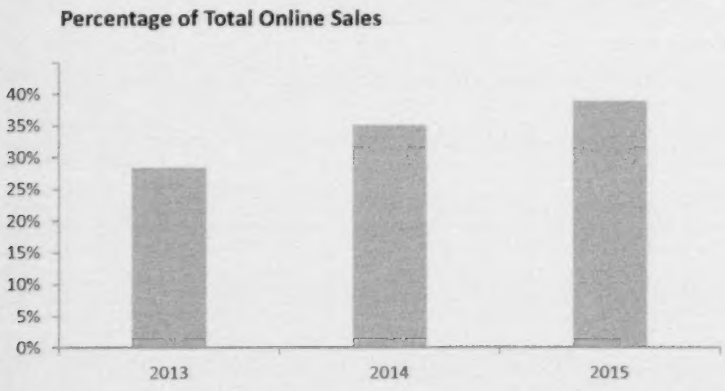
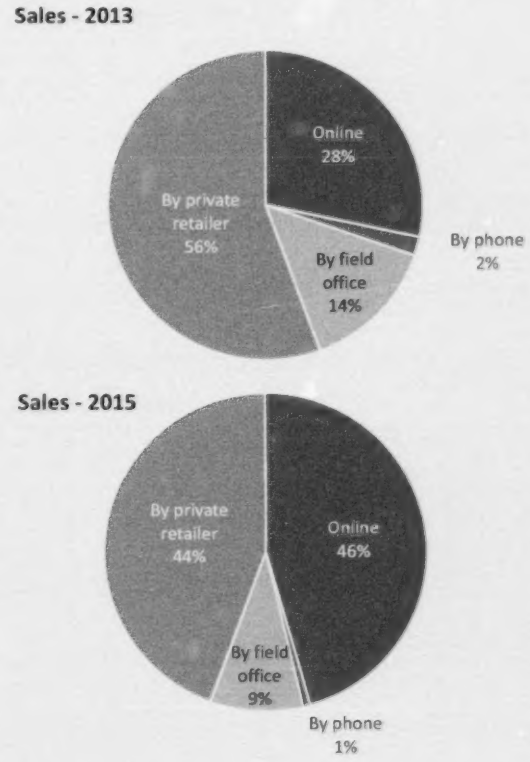


Figure – The percentage of online sales, from 2013 to 2015.



Figures – The proportion of online licence sales has increased significantly since 2013.

Sustainable timber harvest: percentage of annual allowable cut harvested

Harvest does not exceed annual allowable cut

The Ministry continues to meet its goal of ensuring the timber harvest does not exceed Saskatchewan's annual allowable cut (AAC). As of 2014, which represents the latest data available, the forestry industry in Saskatchewan does not have the capacity necessary to harvest at AAC levels. In 2014, the AAC was set at 8 251 million cubic metres of timber. In 2014, the Saskatchewan forestry industry harvested 3.4 million cubic metres of timber, enough to fill Wascana Lake in downtown Regina. This amounts to 41 per cent of the total annual capacity of Saskatchewan's forest used.

The AAC is determined by estimating the size of the woodland harvest that can be sustained over the longterm. The annual timber harvest is an indicator of the state of northern Saskatchewan's forest industry and economy. The Ministry uses the AAC to measure the sustainability of forestry practices in the province and to guide policies regarding the expansion of the forestry manufacturing base.

Saskatchewan is harvesting timber at its second-highest rate since 2007. Timber is reliant on its global commodity price and international trade deals and, consequently, production alters due to changing global market demand. Saskatchewan in particular is sensitive to changing commodity prices in softwood lumber, pulp, plywood and chipboard.

Saskatchewan has historically harvested a lower percentage of its AAC than comparable Canadian provinces. Saskatchewan harvested, on average, 26.24 per cent of its AAC from 2006-2010, compared to Alberta's 73.28 per cent harvest rate. Saskatchewan harvested 34 per cent of its AAC in 2012, compared to 46 per cent in New Brunswick for the same year.

Timber harvests see their second highest volume since 2006

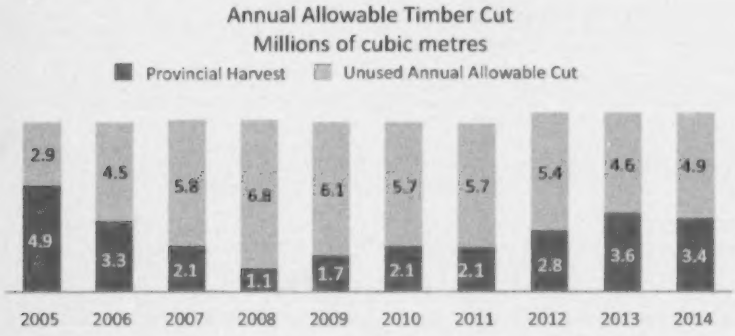


Figure – The proportion of harvested timber to total harvest 2005-2014. Note, the annual allowable cut increased in 2012.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

How does the Ministry of Environment support *Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth?* The Ministry engages with partners and stakeholders to communicate its vision, goals and progress in achieving results.

Ministry Goal

A clean and safe environment for communities

Strategy

Resources are managed to ensure public safety and environmental sustainability.

Key Actions and Results

> Action

Conduct assessments, audit and enforcement activities to ensure compliance with environmental standards and legislation.

Clients value compliance audit experience

Three types of compliance audits were completed throughout 2015-16, including site-specific audits, process or activity-based audits and learning audits, where the risk is lower but learning potential for pool auditors is higher. Feedback ratings from auditees ranged from favourable to highly favourable, with the overall experience described as having added value to the client's business.

"The audit report is a very useful tool for the landfill and will also be used for setting up our new landfill in the near future."
- Audited Client's feedback.

Conservation officers increase contact with public to generate awareness and encourage compliance

The Ministry's Compliance and Field Services Branch tracks the number of field contacts and determines how many are in compliance with regulations. Conservation officers made more than 67,000 contacts with the public in 2015-16, 11 per cent more contacts than in 2014-15. These contacts resulted in 6,267 warnings and 1,486 charges, up from 5,476 warnings and 1,328 charges in the previous year. The increased focus on specific areas of concern resulted in decreased compliance rates.

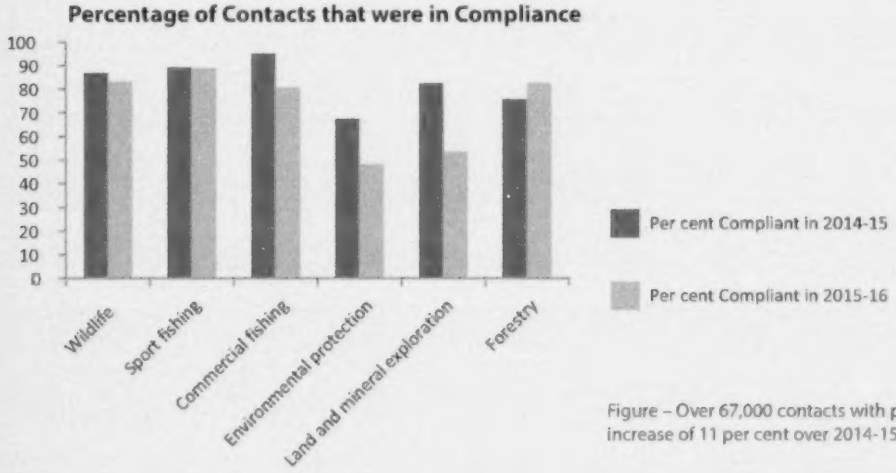


Figure – Over 67,000 contacts with public in the field is an increase of 11 per cent over 2014-15.

Compliance Inspections, by Type and Year

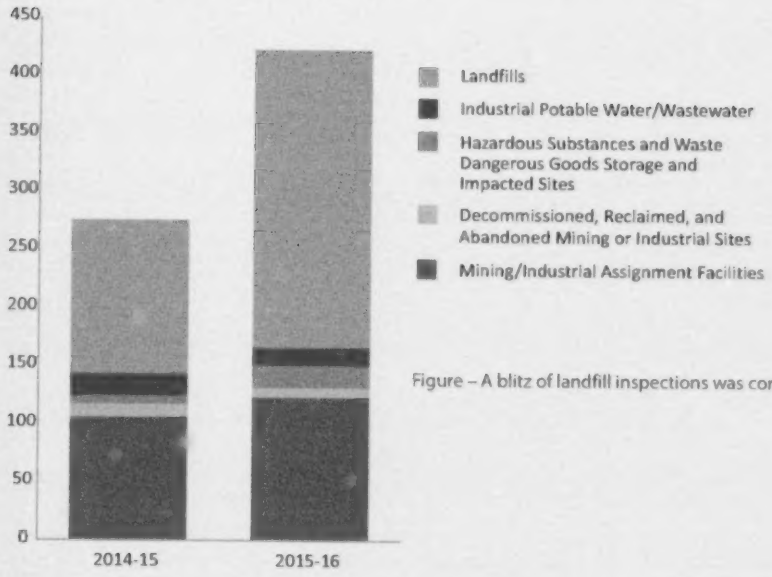


Figure – A blitz of landfill inspections was conducted in the summer of 2015.

> Action

Support communities to advance sustainable development.

Provincial household waste collection improved

The Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP) began on January 1, 2016. MMRP is a product stewardship program to help preserve municipal landfills while encouraging more communities to offer recycling programs. MMRP is a cost-sharing initiative between businesses and municipalities that provides funding for the collection of household waste such as printed paper, newsprint, cardboard, plastic, metal and glass packaging. The fees collected from each participating business are used to reimburse municipalities for collecting the materials.

The next step with the Multi-Material Recycling Program is to incorporate the recommendations from the program working group regarding the registration of medium-sized businesses and newspapers, as well as program communication and general improvements.

> Action

Develop and implement a Ministry of Environment stakeholder engagement framework.

Ministry builds capacity for meaningful public engagement

In response to increased needs for enhanced public engagement, the Ministry hosted a training session for staff on designing and implementing meaningful consultation. The objective was to help build capacity within staff to design and carry out inclusive, effective engagement processes and events. This initial effort is an early step toward developing a public engagement plan for the Ministry in 2016-17.

> Action

Utilize a government-wide enterprise approach to achieve shared outcomes.

Team approach improves response to public health risks from animals

The Ministry of Environment established a joint committee with Agriculture and Health for managing a co-ordinated government response to health issues at the interface of wildlife, domestic animals and humans in Saskatchewan. One Health will create a common understanding of risks from known health issues, will develop a preparedness plan for co-ordinating provincial responses to disease incidents, and ensure related provincial communications are informed by science and co-ordinated to enhance public safety.

Action

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to promote the Ministry in areas such as environmental stewardship, economic activity and innovative partnerships.

Framework expanded to create consistent approach to managing risk

In collaboration with industry and conservation partners, the Ministry started developing and testing mitigation tools to support and encourage better management of industry development effects, including guidelines for wetland and prairie habitat mitigation and wind energy project development. This mitigation framework establishes a consistent approach that creates environmentally desirable least-cost alternatives for proponents by encouraging avoidance of impacts on highly valuable areas, and rewarding actions that conserve valuable habitat. It lays out a process for managing development impacts through the application of a step-wise progression of actions to avoid, minimize and offset adverse effects, followed by monitoring to ensure mitigation goals are met over time. Feedback from industry sectors including mining, transportation and energy has been consistently positive and there is strong support for expanding the application of this framework to help industry manage environmental impacts and achieve compliance.

The new guidelines on how to avoid environmental damage to wetlands and prairie habitat received positive feedback from industry.

Landscape Integrity Unit proposal moves forward

The Ministry reviewed a proposal to establish a Landscape Integrity Unit to lead the modernization of approaches to Crown resource land administration and long-term sustainability. The aim is to move quickly on application of landscape sustainability planning processes, upstream avoidance and mitigation of development impacts, and automating Crown land information management systems. The proposed unit will be a small team of project managers and information specialists who will lead and direct the Ministry's priority lands projects, drawing professional resources and involvement from across the Ministry and other parts of government as needed.

Action

Maintain 'good' air quality through airshed management, monitoring, data, partnerships and national programs.

Saskatchewan adopts new national air quality standards

As part of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code chapters that took effect June 1, 2015, Saskatchewan's Ambient Air Quality Standards now align with new national objectives for fine particulate matter and ozone. The new standards were developed to better protect human health and the environment.

In 2013, the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment agreed to implement a Canada-wide Air Quality Management System. The new system includes emission requirements for major emitters, and increased air zone monitoring and reporting. The Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards for sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide are being updated for completion in 2016. New standards will help provide consistent targets for industries across the country.

Action

Educate stakeholders on, seek support for, and implement mitigation and prevention techniques for environmental sustainability.

Regulations strengthened to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species

Saskatchewan changed regulations in 2015 to help prevent aquatic invasive species from entering the province, and proclaimed May 10 to 16 Aquatic Invasive Species Awareness Week to raise the profile of this important issue. The enhanced regulations strengthened the province's ability to inspect and disinfect high-risk watercraft entering the province, protecting fish populations and aquatic habitats. The provincial regulations are also complemented by new federal regulations enabling Canada Border Services Agency officers to check watercraft entering the province from the United States.

Boat inspections and other prevention efforts in the southeast region of the province included the use of mobile decontamination units in cases where invasive mussels were discovered on watercraft. Given that invasive mussels have been discovered in Lake Winnipeg, the Manitoba-Saskatchewan border is a priority, along with high-risk waterbodies that host events, such as fishing tournaments and wakeboard competitions.

Tests confirm that Saskatchewan's lakes and rivers remain free from the invasive mussels, despite their presence in neighbouring provinces and states. It is important that people clean, drain and dry all watercraft and related equipment – such as docks, slides and buoys – before transporting from one body of water to another.

Invasive mussels and other aquatic invasive species can be impossible to eliminate if they become established in a waterbody, and have the potential to severely impact aquatic habitats, fisheries, valuable recreational resources and water-related infrastructure. Mussels can clog water intake structures and increase costs significantly for irrigation, power generation and municipal water supply.

Action

Work with municipalities and stakeholders to engage in activities for economic benefit while protecting and conserving natural resources.

Exploring interest in evolving the hunting and angling outfitter business

In an effort to improve standards and maximize the social and economic benefits offered through outfitted angling and hunting, options are being explored that include potential for a new Saskatchewan outfitter commission. An industry-led outfitting commission would represent all licensed outfitters and help ensure a healthy and sustainable outfitting industry exists in Saskatchewan. The discussion began this year with the Saskatchewan Outfitters Association in partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Tourism Saskatchewan. More work is planned for next year to engage outfitters.

> Action

Collaborate with clients and stakeholders in providing operational and financial assurances for values at risk.

'Polluter pays' approach expands to cover cost of potential contamination

As part of regulatory changes introduced this year, all operators seeking an industrial effluent works permit – such as oil refineries, potash developers and mining companies – are now required to provide a financial assurance so that if the company becomes insolvent, taxpayers are protected from the financial burden of clean up. Approximately 75 operators in Saskatchewan will be required to submit financial assurances by January 2020. To date, Saskatchewan industry provided more than $790 million in financial assurance. Policy options are being reviewed to guide how the Ministry approaches the wide spectrum of clients and their unique circumstances. Work began in 2015 to engage industry stakeholders and analyze cases, policy, and research to determine a trust size that is equitable and would adequately protect the environment.

> Action

Ensure effective solid waste management via landfills, transfer stations and recycling programs.

Growing communities need better landfill management

The Ministry is addressing landfill challenges by staffing a dedicated landfill unit for targeted education and compliance efforts, and developing a solid waste management strategy.

The Ministry continues to regulate 854 solid waste management facilities located on 700 sites. This includes 328 municipal waste landfills, 15 industrial landfills, 155 transfer stations and 356 closed operations. The Ministry continues to create an accurate inventory of waste management sites, complete inspections and follow up on non-compliance to maintain public safety and reduce potential impacts to soil, air and water.

- 256 inspections were conducted on open waste management facilities, closed landfills and transfer stations.
- 187 actions on non-compliance issues ranged from letters to environmental protection orders or charges. 109 were letters of non-compliance related to transfer stations.
- Ministry staff in Prince Albert participated in the first annual Earth Day cleanup of the Nisbet Forest.
- The Ministry hosted four regional waste management education sessions to help clients understand the process and requirements for landfills and transfer station construction, operation and decommissioning.

Recycling programs remain strong avenues to reduce landfill space and increase public contribution to environmental sustainability.

- The Multi-Material Recycling Program for packaging and printed paper was successfully launched.
- 412,359,519 beverage containers were recycled, which represents an 82 per cent return rate.
- 19.05 million litres of used oil were recycled, which represents a return rate of 69 per cent of oil sold in the province.
- 2.09 million oil filters were recycled, which is 78 per cent of all filters sold.
- 220,541 litres of antifreeze were collected and recycled. This represents a nine per cent return rate.
- 1.065 million kilograms of oil and antifreeze containers were recycled. This is a return rate of 43 per cent.
- 861,027 tires were collected for recycling through the recycling program.

Education and awareness a vital part of waste strategy
The Ministry recognizes the need to educate stakeholders about sustainable waste management. For example, the Ministry started developing a solid waste management strategy to plan future waste management initiatives in a growing province.

- The Solid Waste Association of North America held two education sessions in November 2015, which included presentations about regionalization from other jurisdictions such as Alberta and Montana.
- The Ministry teamed up with the Saskatchewan Waste Reduction Council to present on the strategy at the Council's fall workshops.

> Action

Maintain public safety by ensuring that wildfire suppression activity focused on protection of people is the highest priority; work with stakeholders to help them understand, prepare for, and take responsibility to protect themselves from the risks of wildfire in order to ensure the safety and security of people, communities and public and industry infrastructure.

Preparation and collaboration spared communities from wildfire harm
The 2015 wildfire season was the most extreme in many years. Although there have been seasons with more total fires and more area burned, the number of large fires with direct impact on Saskatchewan communities was unprecedented in 2015.

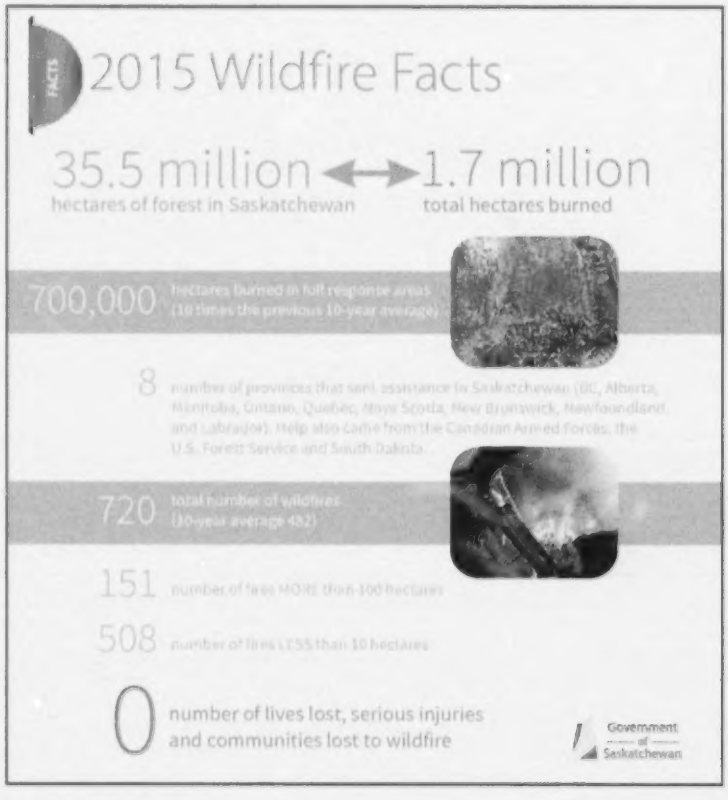
There were 720 wildfires reported in 2015 compared to 403 in 2014. In 2015, wildfires burned approximately 1.7 million hectares and 151 of these wildfires were larger than 100 hectares. At the peak of the season in July, more than 50 communities were threatened by wildfires or smoke and there were 127 active wildfires. Just over half the fires were caused by lightning and the rest by humans.

The Ministry's prevention and education efforts are an essential part of reducing human-caused fires. This included 15 community fuel mitigation projects in co-operation with communities during the year. In May 2015, Wadin Bay was recognized as the province's first FireSmart community on the first National Wildfire Community Preparedness Day. The community, located 28 kilometres north of La Ronge, completed a wildfire risk assessment and then implemented a plan to address the risks identified. Less than two months later, these efforts were tested when an enormous wildfire burned adjacent to Wadin Bay. Although three structures were burned, the rest of the community was saved, thanks to community foresight and preparation, along with the hard work of firefighters and volunteers.

The Ministry employed 2,398 Type 3 (seasonal) firefighters and, in collaboration with its partners, trained 610 emergency fire personnel. Over the past five years, a total of 1,640 emergency fire personnel have been trained. In response to the call for volunteers at the height of the season, 213 people were trained and put to work fighting fires. Forty-two camera-equipped fire towers also provided continuous information during the wildfire season.

Saskatchewan received assistance in 2015 from partners across Canada, including Manitoba, Alberta, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador, British Columbia, and the Canadian Armed Forces, as well as U.S. Forest Service of South Dakota. Despite the extreme wildfire season, Saskatchewan was able to provide assistance to Manitoba, Alberta and the U.S. Forest Service in Montana and Idaho.

The 2015-16 budget for fire operations was $49.9 million and, as a result of the extreme season, an additional $80 million in special warrant funding was required.


FACTS
2015 Wildfire Facts
35.5 million
hectares of forest in Saskatchewan
1.7 million
total hectares burned
700,000
hectares burned in fuel response areas
(10 times the previous 10-year average)
8
number of provinces that sent assistance to Saskatchewan (BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and Labrador). Help also came from the Canadian Armed Forces, the U.S. Forest Service and South Dakota.
720
total number of wildfires
(30-year average 482)
151
number of fires MORE than 100 hectares
508
number of fires LESS than 10 hectares
0
number of lives lost, serious injuries and communities lost to wildfire
Government of Saskatchewan

Performance Measures

Saskatchewan's Air Quality

Air quality index is 'good' 95 per cent of the time or 'good' air quality days 95 per cent of the time

In 2015, the Ministry successfully hit its target of maintaining 'good' or better air quality days 95 per cent of the time in every community except Regina. Ratings of good or excellent demonstrate air quality with no anticipated harmful effects for the majority of the population. The Air Quality Index (AQI) is used as a measurement to quantify the Ministry's objective of ensuring clean urban and rural air throughout the province.

The AQI measures the concentration of pollutants in the atmosphere at a given place and time. The AQI scores are calculated from ambient levels of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide, and fine particulate matters in the atmosphere. Communities in northern Saskatchewan are expected to have higher AQI scores due to higher background levels of ozone in the atmosphere and close proximity to forest fires.

Saskatchewan's air quality was dramatically affected by a severe wildfire season in 2015 that caused ash and particulates to enter the atmosphere in the north, then drift south over the province's largest urban centres. The prevalence of forest fires in Saskatchewan in 2015 also contributed to higher AQI scores for Saskatoon and Regina. The particulate matter from wildfires can be so severe as to cause malfunctions in the measuring equipment, and can thus further skew the AQI scores for that year.

The Ministry compiles its measurements through air monitoring stations used concurrently with the National Air Pollution Surveillance Program. North Battleford is not included in the 2015 measurements as the station has since been relocated to better serve other areas of the province.

Target for Air Quality Achieved Despite Wildfires

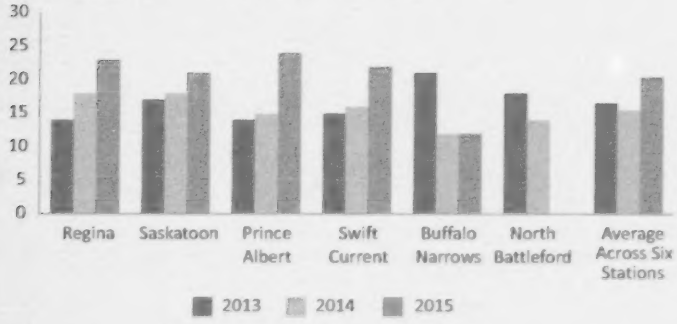


Figure – Air Quality Index for cities with measurement stations, 2013-2015, and the average across all stations.

Time When 'Good' Air Quality Is Not Achieved

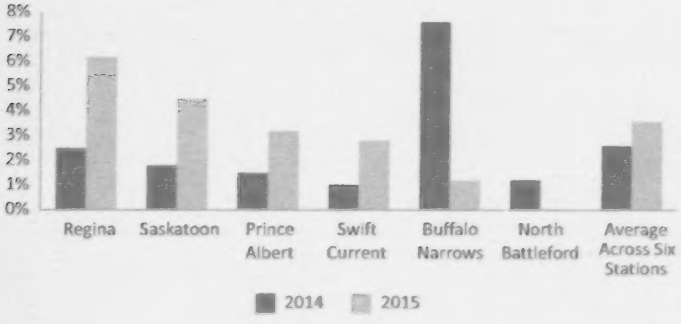


Figure – Percentage of time when good air quality is not achieved in cities with measurement stations, 2014-15.

Recycling Rates

Maintain an 80 per cent recycling rate on beverage containers while optimizing waste recycling in all other recycled materials

More beverage containers are being recycled in Saskatchewan today than ever before. Saskatchewan continues to meet its goal of recycling more than 80 per cent of its beverage containers every year. In 2015, 82 per cent of all beverage containers were recycled, roughly equivalent to the percentage recycled in 2013, but down from 86.5 per cent in 2014. Recycling rates remain an indicator of the public commitment to waste minimization and reflect the Ministry's goal of ensuring effective solid waste management strategies.

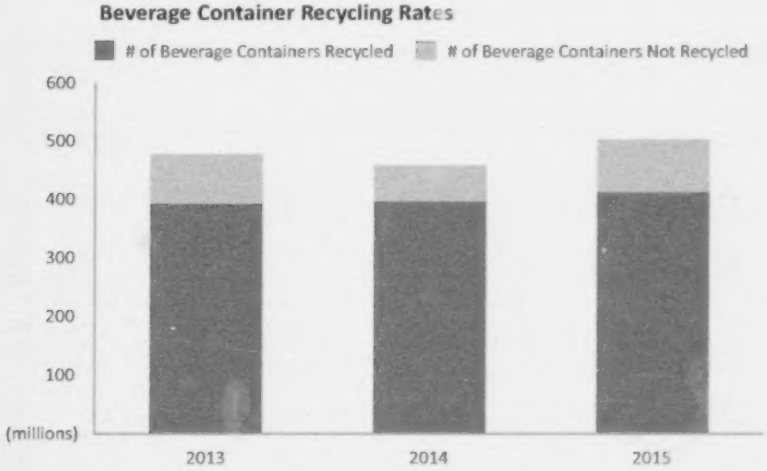


Figure – Beverage containers recycled from 2013 to 2015. In 2015, 82 per cent of all containers sold were recycled.

Saskatchewan has among the highest return rate for all beverage container programs in Canada. In particular, market and environmental conditions that encourage the consumption of beverages, such as warm weather, will increase the total number of containers consumed and recycled in a given year.

The Ministry of Environment regulates four industry-led recycling programs, and oversees the Beverage Container Collection and Recycling Program through a contract with the Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres' recycling division. Beyond beverage containers, the Ministry also administers regulations for recycling oil and antifreeze, tires, paint and electronics.

The fiscal year saw the launch of the Multi-Material Recycling Program (MMRP), a cost-sharing initiative between businesses and government to better recycle material distributed to consumers. In its inaugural year, 459 municipalities agreed to access the service, representing 85 per cent of Saskatchewan households.

Recycling rates are driven by market conditions, public commitment, and good stewardship practices. As Saskatchewan's economy expands, recycling rates are expected to increase.

This year, the Ministry saw more used oil and antifreeze collected for recycling than ever before. Both services are administered by the Saskatchewan Association for Resource Recovery (SARR), which is regulated by the Ministry. 19.05 million litres of oil were recycled in 2015, 87,000 more litres than the previous year – enough to fill more than seven Olympic-sized swimming pools. In its second year, SARR's antifreeze collection program exceeded its 2014 collection numbers by 30 per cent, and it processed 220,541 litres of antifreeze.

The Saskatchewan Scrap Tire Corporation (SSTC), regulated by the Ministry, collected 861,027 used tires in 2015 for processing into landscaping mulch, molded products, and other merchandise. This is a decrease of 28,189 tires compared to the previous year. SSTC has recycled over 20 million tires in the last 17 years through its programs, including collection from the public, landfill cleanups, and pickup services from retailers.

The Ministry also regulates paint and electronic waste recycling programs through the Saskatchewan Paint Stewardship Program and the Electronic Products Recycling Association, respectively. 2015 saw a decrease in both litres of paint and electronic waste recycled. The paint stewardship program collected 390,139 litres of paint in 2014, down from 449,326 litres in 2013. The electronics recycling program collected 3.163 million kilograms of electronic waste in 2014, a slight decrease from 3.288 kilograms of e-waste in 2013.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people | Meeting the challenges of growth | **Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people** | Delivering responsive and responsible government

How does the Ministry of Environment support *Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth?* ? The Ministry adopts a cumulative effects approach to environmental management by taking into account the combined effects of past, present and foreseeable human activities over time on the environment, economy and society in a particular place.

Ministry Goal

Productive, resilient and biologically diverse landscapes

Strategy

Prioritizing air, water, landscape and habitat protection through legislative frameworks, targeted initiatives, policies, programs and services.

Key Actions and Results

> Action

Identify key indicators of sustainability for water, air, land and habitat for future state of the environment reporting.

Stakeholders test online mapping tool to increase natural resource knowledge

HABISask – or Hunting, Angling and Biodiversity Information of Saskatchewan – is an online mapping tool shared with stakeholders for testing and feedback in 2015. The Ministry is developing the tool to assist government and clients in making wise resource, land use, and hunting and angling decisions. By using information such as species distribution, habitat and wildlife population data, clients such as land developers can co-ordinate and expedite options and proposals for conserving landscapes, and meet regulatory requirements. Ecosystem management tools are an important part of informed resource development decisions and responsible economic growth. Full implementation of HABISask is planned for 2016-17.

> Action

Develop and implement harvest plans to optimize sustainable commercial and recreational hunting and angling opportunities.

Quality of wildlife research data to be improved and shared

The Ministry introduced new regulations under *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2015* to enhance wildlife protection and ensure science-based wildlife surveys are carried out using best practices. Properly conducted wildlife surveys and reliable data submissions are vital tools in the assessment, management and protection of wildlife populations and habitat. Data collected will be made available online through the HABISask online mapping tool. Stricter hunting penalties were also introduced. In addition to suspensions and lifetime bans from hunting for the most serious offences, people with outstanding fines will not be allowed to buy a licence. People banned from hunting in other jurisdictions will not be allowed to hunt in Saskatchewan, and anyone in arrears on family maintenance payments will not be able to secure hunting or angling licences.

Action

Support the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre's mandate for monitoring biodiversity by way of inventory and assessment through partnerships with environmental non-governmental organizations.

Biodiversity and species-at-risk decisions informed by open data

The Ministry continued its financial support of the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre, which provides access to detailed baseline and monitoring information from the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Nature Saskatchewan, Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan and Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council. This information is integrated into Ministry processes that guide business development approvals, federal reporting requirements and ministerial commitments to biodiversity goals and targets. Without the partnership, development decisions would be less informed, and species at risk information would be less accurate and complete.

Businesses in Saskatchewan use the Saskatchewan Conservation Data Centre to provide timely and accurate resource-based environmental data to help facilitate their growth objectives.

Action

Maximize sustainable forestry harvest volume schedule.

Timber harvest not exceeding allowable annual cut

The Ministry continues to meet its goal of not allowing the timber harvest to exceed Saskatchewan's annual allowable cut (AAC). As of 2014, which represents the latest data available, the forestry industry in Saskatchewan does not have the capacity necessary to harvest at AAC levels. In 2014, the AAC was set at 8.251 million cubic metres of timber. In 2014, the Saskatchewan forestry industry harvested 3.4 million cubic metres of timber, enough to fill Wascana Lake in downtown Regina. This amounts to 41 per cent of the total annual capacity of Saskatchewan's forest used. For more information, please see Sustainable Timber Harvest on page 32.

Action

Develop range plans for Boreal caribou that comply with the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Progress on woodland caribou conservation plan meets federal requirements

The Ministry of Environment has initiated a program to provide understanding of the complexities of woodland caribou ecology, help the province meet objectives identified in a federal recovery strategy, and carry out its responsibility for conserving woodland caribou and their habitat on provincial lands.

The Woodland Caribou Range Assessment and Planning program incorporates two key components: woodland caribou range assessment, and development of range plans. For the purposes of the range assessment and planning activities related to woodland caribou, Saskatchewan has been divided into the Boreal Shield and Boreal Plain conservation units as identified in the federal recovery strategy.

This initiative is a collaborative effort, bringing together the knowledge and expertise of academic institutions, government and non-government agencies, Aboriginal communities and organizations, and the private sector.

Action

In partnership with other ministries and agencies, monitor the northern boreal watershed for impacts of development through baseline and risk assessment, monitoring change and where required, establishing thresholds for development.

Award-winning boreal monitoring program wraps up

The five-year Boreal Watershed Management Strategy concluded in March 2016. The strategy evaluated current conditions in northern Saskatchewan in partnership with communities and key stakeholders to provide baseline information needed to help facilitate northern resource development. The education program with First Nations and Métis won the 2015 Regional Centre of Expertise Saskatchewan award. The program also attracted favourable media attention for its hands-on citizen scientist work with local communities.

The Boreal Watershed Management Strategy was valued at $9 million with $4 million leveraged from other funding sources.

The final report includes scientific studies and information related to industrial activity, water quality, soils and food consumed in northern communities.

Action

Facilitate the development and implementation of stewardship and incentive-based conservation tools to protect and recover species at risk in southwest Saskatchewan.

Stewardship of species at risk brings land managers, businesses and environmental groups together

The Ministry created a new multi-stakeholder agency, the South of the Divide Conservation Action Program Inc., in partnership with Environment Canada, agricultural producers, environmental non-government organizations, and industry, to implement species at risk recovery actions in southwest Saskatchewan.

The collaboration aims to conserve species at risk in southwestern Saskatchewan while meeting the growth agenda of the province.

The three-year plan is a results-based federal and provincial approach that will lead to consistent standards, guidelines and best practices for stakeholders and others whose activities have impacted species at risk in their habitat.

Action

Continue to expand, protect and manage sites within the provincial Representative Areas Network.

Protected land part of conservation efforts

As of 2015, 9.5 per cent of Saskatchewan – 6.2 million hectares of land – is protected as part of the province's Representative Areas Network (RAN). The Ministry is working towards its goal of 12 per cent of Saskatchewan, or 7.8 million hectares, in the RAN. For more information, see Performance Measures on page 32.

> Action

Maintain productive and biologically diverse forests through forest renewal and protection from invasive insects and diseases.

Constant monitoring key to isolating mountain pine beetle outbreaks

In collaboration with the Government of Alberta, the Ministry again prevented or mitigated the infestation of mountain pine beetle in Saskatchewan's northern boreal forests in 2015-16. The Ministry also collaborated with the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport to contain the current mountain pine beetle infestation in Cypress Hills Interprovincial Park. Aerial and ground surveys of the infected area identified 260 trees that were removed and burned. This marks the fewest number of trees removed from the park in the last two years and demonstrates progress in shrinking the mountain pine beetle population.

"Early, aggressive, and sustained efforts will ensure that the mountain pine beetle is not in a position to outbreak further." – *Dr. Rory McIntosh, Insect and Disease Expert, Ministry of Environment*

The distribution of mountain pine beetle is receding in Alberta's northwest, and the Ministry is supporting research to understand the mountain pine beetle's adaptation to both lodgepole and jack pine forests. Exactly two beetles were found in the Cold Lake Air Weapons Range, 50 kilometres from the Saskatchewan border in 2015. In 2014, the closest known colonies of the beetle were found 140 kilometres from the Saskatchewan border, 90 kilometres further away than their 2013 range. Colonies are found through baiting specific sites with pheromones to attract the beetles for collection and examination.

NORTH

Zero evidence in Saskatchewan's northern pine forests

SOUTH

Effort continues to contain outbreak in Cypress Hills

> Action

Monitor and evaluate federal regulation and recommended compliance standards including targets for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and Aichi targets for biodiversity.

Monitoring targets for biodiversity

The Ministry continues to collaborate with the federal government and stakeholders in developing action plans and joint funding agreements that contribute to biodiversity conservation and to helping meet Canada's Aichi biodiversity targets. In 2015-16, federal collaborations focused on grassland conservation in the southwest region of the province as well as in the boreal forest.

Work continues on comprehensive plan

The federal government has reconfirmed Canada's commitment to reducing GHG emission levels by 30 per cent compared to 2005. Saskatchewan has indicated its support for achieving that goal and the Ministry is working on a comprehensive plan. Because each province's mix of emission sources and use of fossil fuels differs significantly, various provincial models are being considered to help reach a Pan-Canadian consensus on the 30 per cent target. That work is expected to be completed by 2017.

SaskPower, the province's electrical utility and largest GHG emitter, has indicated that it will strive to reach 50 per cent renewable energy capacity in its generation mix by 2030. SaskPower has also implemented carbon capture and storage technology at one of its Boundary Dam power plants in Estevan. The plant is on track to capture 800,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide in 2016, equivalent to taking 200,000 vehicles off the road.

Performance Measures

Number of hectares in the Representative Areas Network

Maintain Saskatchewan's commitment to conserve representative and unique landscapes

Protected landscapes help maintain biodiversity

As of 2015, 9.5 per cent of Saskatchewan – 6.2 million hectares of land – is protected as part of the province's Representative Areas Network (RAN). The Ministry is working towards its goal of 12 per cent of Saskatchewan, or 7.8 million hectares, in the RAN. The Ministry has already met or exceeded this target in four ecoregions. These ecoregions include the Cypress Upland, home to Cypress Hills Provincial Park, and the Mixed Grassland in the southwestern corner of the province, home to Grasslands National Park. The Ministry continues to expand in the ecoregions currently below the target, most recently within the Mid-Boreal Upland and the Churchill River Upland Ecoregions.

The Representative Areas Network (RAN) conserves unique landscapes throughout 11 ecoregions of the province and serves as a benchmark for ecological changes compared against more developed land.

The RAN faces two major challenges with the addition of new lands. Land in the southern region of the province is often privately held, and so additions to the RAN are made in a piecemeal fashion. This land has also been under agricultural development for generations, and as such, the natural ecological systems on much of the land have been significantly altered. Northern Saskatchewan is largely Crown land and more conducive to integration. However, many stakeholders must be consulted before integration can occur.

Percentage of forest renewal following timber harvest

85 per cent attained

Saskatchewan forests regenerated at highest level in three years

Saskatchewan maintains an extremely high forest renewal rate, with 95 per cent of land harvested between 2002 and 2013 successfully regenerated into a healthy forest ecosystem by the forest industry. This is well above the Ministry's target of an 85 per cent renewal rate and is expected to remain so in the future. The measurement is important because it allows the Ministry to calculate future annual timber harvests and track the success of sustainable forest management policies. It remains the best way of tracking industry replanting schedules. The measurement reflects the industry-led regeneration statuses, and as such, it represents the government's commitment to maintaining private-sector stewardship in Saskatchewan's forests.

Forest renewal rate is a measurement of harvested land that has sufficiently regrown. It takes two years for the forest to grow before measurement begins; the 2013 harvest area was measured in 2015.

Each year's harvests are measured using 2002 as a base year because the Ministry is concerned with the renewal rates over an extended period of time, and tree growth must be monitored in the first 10 years. Forested areas are replanted by hand or the ground is scarred to promote growth of trees that don't reproduce with saplings, such as trembling aspens. Saskatchewan's current 95 per cent rate is a slight increase from previous measurements. Saskatchewan saw a 94 per cent renewal rate for the 2002 to 2012 harvest, and a 93 per cent renewal rate for the 2002 to 2011 harvest.

Area of Forest Commercially Renewed
by harvest year, surveyed from 2013-15

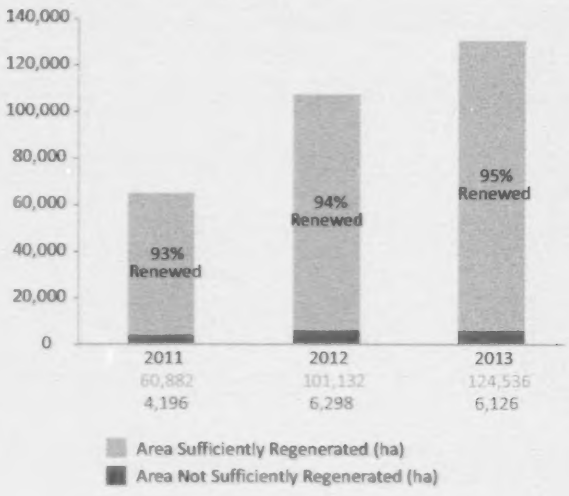


Figure – Area of land, in hectares, where forests have regenerated to an acceptable level, from 2011 to 2013 harvests.

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

How does the Ministry of Environment support *Saskatchewan's Plan for Growth?* With a values-based organizational culture and highly-skilled and knowledgeable employees, the Ministry efficiently delivers effective programs and activities.

Ministry Goal

High client service satisfaction

Strategy

Enterprise approach through effective and transparent engagement with our clients and the public is adopted as the way the Ministry does business.

Key Actions and Results

Action

Utilize the Ministry's Public Service Renewal initiatives and commitment to culture and values through employee recognition, engagement and effective communication.

Ministry fosters culture of excellence

The Ministry continues to invest in its staff to deliver quality and imbed a culture of excellence in its internal strategies and initiatives. Significant progress was made on refreshing the Ministry's employee recognition program to focus on reinforcing core values that include continuous improvement, innovation and a client-centred approach to improving the efficiency and effectiveness of programs and services offered by the Ministry. The Ministry introduced a Lightbulbs initiative, which provides staff a medium to share continuous improvement and innovation ideas, resulting in better service to citizens and increased employee engagement. The Ministry also created a celebration wall to share external staff accolades, including:

Award Winning Staff and Branches	
Forest Service Branch	Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) Finalist for the 2015 Innovative Management Award
RBR and Code Management Branch	Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan 2015 Environmental Excellence Award
Compliance Audit Branch Hillary Prodahl and Shelby Enevoldsen	Awarded Promising Young Professional from the Institute of Public Administration of Canada

Action

Review core programs to ensure efficient and effective delivery.

Program reviews and continuous improvement efforts ongoing

The Ministry values continuous improvement efforts and always looks for better and more efficient ways to serve our clients and undertake our work. As a key component of government's accountability process, the Ministry of Environment uses program review to continuously improve its programs and services.

> Action

Implement a learning and development strategy and succession plan to develop, attract, train and retain a skilled workforce.

Criteria developed for learning fund

Criteria were developed for allocating internal corporate learning and development funds. The systematic and objective methodology ensures corporate learning and development supports and aligns to the achievement of strategic environmental outcomes and enhances the Ministry's capacity to meet clients needs. In 2015-16, a group of Ministry employees received public engagement training to enhance meaningful engagement with stakeholders.

> Action

Foster an environment of continuous improvement through lean processes, project management and promotion of enterprise-wide collaboration.

Shared training of conservation officers in western Canada delivers results and reduces costs

Saskatchewan hosted the Western Conservation Law Enforcement Academy this year and will also host next year. The academy is a partnership between the western Canadian provinces and the Yukon Territory to deliver common training standards and curriculum to new conservation officers. The 16-week training session ensures the province has fully qualified conservation officers ready to handle a wide variety of situations in the field. Provincial conservation officers are uniformed law enforcement officers and special constables with full police powers. By working with local residents, they help protect Saskatchewan's environment and our rich natural resources.

> Action

Refine and improve client and public access to information, including measurement and reporting data through the Ministry website and social media channels.

Resilient communities use online mapping to make smart decisions

Sask Interactive is an easy to use web-based tool developed by the Ministry to give clients the ability to interact with mapped datasets, such as administrative boundaries and protected lands. Anything that happens on the landscape can and is being mapped. Community leaders are increasing their use of spatial analytics, whether about changing landscapes in economic flux, transportation corridors that get a lot of wildlife activity, or extreme weather events such as heat waves and floods.

Mapping landfills is just one example of how communities can use spatial data to help make informed decisions.

Guide offers clarity on First Nations and Métis hunting and fishing laws

The Ministry published the *Saskatchewan Guide for Treaty and Aboriginal Rights for Hunting and Fishing* to improve client service to First Nations and Métis clients and promote a better understanding of existing hunting and angling regulations. The guide provides comprehensive, accurate and accessible information to help reduce misunderstandings and conflict between government, the public and First Nations and Métis people.

The consistent interpretation, implementation and communication of Treaty and Aboriginal rights is a transparent, accountable approach. The guide supplements the Ministry's hunting and angling guides and outlines identification requirements and the geographic scope of where rights are recognized. The guide also provides a complete listing of the safety and conservation regulations common to Treaty and Aboriginal rights.

Non-routine freedom of information requests and media inquiries reach all-time high

The Ministry handled more non-routine freedom of information requests and media inquiries than ever before in 2015-16. Media inquiries for Ministry spokespeople or the Minister resulted in 288 public interviews, in addition to daily updates during wildfire season. The Ministry also increased its activity on the Government of Saskatchewan's Twitter and Facebook pages, where it provided rapid public communications on environmental news, including the severe wildfire season in 2015.

Service	2014-15	2015-16
Ministry of Environment news releases	33	28
Inquiries received from media outlets	498	551
Interviews provided to media outlets	*Data not available*	288
Government of Saskatchewan Twitter posts related to the Ministry	2	39
Government of Saskatchewan Facebook posts related to the Ministry	2	35
Total Freedom of Information requests received	340	326
Non-routine Freedom of Information requests received	52	54

Social media serves public well during wildfire season

At the height of the 2015 wildfire season, the Ministry became the top contributor to daily social media updates from the Government of Saskatchewan. Of 33 tweets on the government's official Twitter page in July 2015, 20 were related to the Ministry, largely detailing up-to-the-minute information on the urgent wildfire situation. This represents the Ministry's commitment to providing rapid and useful knowledge to the public in emergencies.

Number of Ministry Tweets Published by @skgov

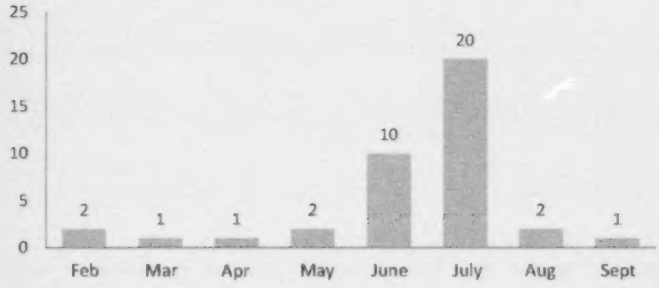


Figure – The 2015 wildfire season resulted in peak social media communication for the Ministry via government's Twitter account.

> Action

Optimize client services through the Ministry's Client Service Office, in-person and telephone service, online portals and the use of Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software, application permitting and permissions management systems and other software for specialized service delivery.

Clients get answers on first point of contact

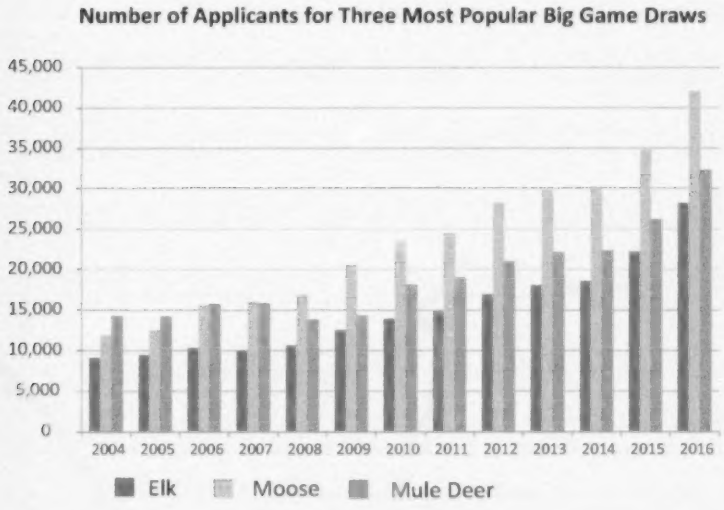
The Client Service Office was created to help the public navigate through the Ministry and get information as quickly as possible. In 2015-16, more than 13,000 cases were addressed by the Client Service Office, 83 per cent of which were resolved on the first contact.

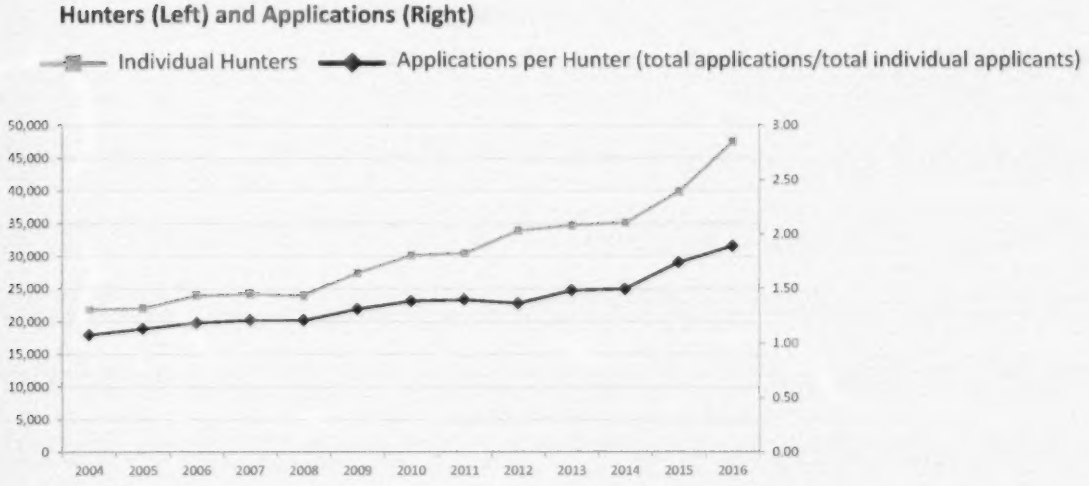
Number of inquiries by subject	
Hunting and Angling Licences and Vendors	3,675
Permits, Permissions, Policy, Planning, Regulations	2,277
Wildfire	1,343
Fish and Wildlife	946
Big Game Draw	917
Ministry Programs and Website	764
Land	652
Other Agencies and Ministries	639
Contaminated Sites, Hazardous Waste, Spills	541
Solid Waste Management	323
Online Business	276
Forest	199
Environmental Code	183
Federal Government, Climate Change	143
Other	321
TOTAL	13,199

Big game draw moves online

The provincial draw for big game hunting licences was administered through the online Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licence (HAL) System for the first time in 2015, as a transparent and equitable method for allocating a limited number of licences to residents. HAL enables users to submit, review, and update their application, as well as check their pool status history and purchase new licences. Customers can also verify their residency status online. The move to online business helps streamline and simplify the process.

The Ministry received 92,011 applications on HAL in 2016, of which 89,524 were from Saskatchewan residents.





Figures – Moose remains the most popular game animal to be hunted, with Saskatchewan receiving 42,051 applications with 5,890 moose licences granted. This is 20.7 per cent more applications than the previous year. Elk and mule deer saw similar increases (26.6 per cent and 23.3 per cent respectively). Game seasons for pronghorn and antlerless mule deer were also held in 2016.

> Action

Implement clear and effective processes towards fulfilling the Ministry's legal Duty to Consult with First Nations and Métis communities.

New Duty to Consult Process Guide supports consistent and effective process

In collaboration with the ministries of Government Relations and Justice, the *Duty to Consult Process Guide* for Saskatchewan government officials was finalized and released. Five Government of Saskatchewan Duty to Consult workshops were delivered in 2015-16, with 111 Ministry staff completing the training.

The workshop's foundation of consistent criteria, process and outcomes teaches staff how to manage discussions with First Nations and Métis clients, and enhances the opportunity to build productive working relationships while fulfilling the Ministry's duty to consult responsibilities.

Performance Measures

Business transactions completed online

Increase online business transactions so that 80 per cent of all Ministry permits/business transactions are completed online by 2020

Transactions for common Ministry business requests rapidly move online

The Ministry continued to move away from paper-based transactions and towards a more efficient online transaction model. In particular, the Ministry has made impressive strides towards moving spill reporting, hazardous material transactions, and qualified person applications to its online systems in an effort to expedite service. By placing business transactions online, the Ministry hopes to create an easier and more cost-effective way for clients to access the Ministry's services and decrease the time necessary to approve client applications.

Some programs are more difficult to move online than others. In particular, Crown and Park Land Registries typically involve renewal and management of leases that predate the advent of computer transactions, and as such, most record keeping remains paper-based. Modernizing this system will dramatically increase the total percentage of business transactions completed online and the groundwork was done this year to make the transition to online business for Crown land management a priority for 2016-17 (see page 17).

Branches use different service methods and measure different time periods, so it is difficult to aggregate every transaction into a single percentage. The table details the number of transactions handled by the two most heavily-used services within the new CRM system.

Most frequent business, excluding hunting, angling and trapping licences and general document submissions

Measurement	Online	Offline	% Online
Qualified Persons Designation	218	128*	63%
Hazardous Material Storage Facility Permits	566	0**	>95%

*As of June 1, 2015 all Qualified Person Designation transactions occur online.

**Less than five per cent of permits were initiated offline. However, the transaction was converted to an online action once the Ministry received the request.

Financial Overview 2015-16

The Ministry's approved appropriation for 2015-16 was $160.2 million. The Ministry received special warrant funding of $80 million to assist with the extreme fire season, which resulted in a revised appropriation of $240.2 million. Total 2015-16 expenditures were $229.7 million, a variance of $10.4 million from the Ministry's revised estimate. This under-expenditure was mainly due to project delays and/or deferrals and contracts, operational and vacancy savings.

The Ministry's budgeted revenue was $52.5 million for 2015-16. Actual revenue the Ministry recorded in 2015-16 was $66.3 million. This variance of $13.8 million was primarily due to: higher-than-average fire activity in 2015-16; a litigation settlement; income from prescribed burns; higher-than-anticipated environmental handling charges; an increase in real property sales; and increased licence and permit sales due to favourable conditions and abundant resources.

The Ministry of Environment is responsible for the Fish and Wildlife Development Fund and the newly-created Impacted Sites Fund. Explanations and financial statements for these funds are found on pages 44 and 45.

Expenditures

The Ministry's revised appropriation for 2015-16 was $240.2 million, including projected capital expenditures of $8.2 million. The Ministry's total revised expense budget (excluding capital asset acquisitions) for 2015-16 was $242.8 million, including an amortization budget of $10.8 million. The total 2015-16 actual expenses were $227.6 million, a variance of $15.2 million from the revised estimate.

Actual Expenditures

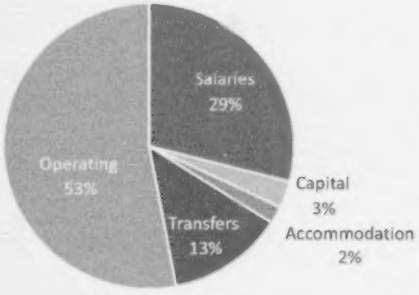


Figure – Allocation of the Ministry's 2015-16 actual expenditures between cost categories.

The following table outlines information on actual and budgeted expenditures by subvote and subprogram. Explanations are provided for all variances greater than 10 per cent.

	(in thousands of dollars)					
	2014-15 Actual Expenditures	2015-16 Original Estimates	2015-16 Revised Estimates	2015-16 Actual Expenditures	2015-16 Variance	
Subvote						
EN01 Central Management and Services						
Minister's Salary	48	48	48	48	-	
Executive Management	1,310	1,357	1,357	1,331	(26)	
Central Services	8,893	9,494	9,494	8,900	(594)	
Accommodation Services	5,053	5,368	5,368	4,916	(452)	
Subvote Total	**15,304**	**16,267**	**16,267**	**15,195**	**(1,072)**	
EN06 Climate Change	**851**	**2,637**	**2,637**	**1,095**	**(1,542)**	1
EN07 Fish and Wildlife						
Fish and Wildlife Program	6,469	6,907	6,907	6,882	(25)	
Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	3,569	3,804	3,804	3,769	(35)	
Subvote Total	**10,038**	**10,711**	**10,711**	**10,651**	**(60)**	
EN08 Compliance and Field Services	**16,837**	**17,637**	**17,637**	**17,584**	**(53)**	
EN09 Forest Services					-	
Forest Programs	6,461	6,863	6,863	6,389	(474)	
Reforestation	2,264	1,940	1,940	1,695	(245)	2
Insect and Disease Control	2,136	2,175	2,175	2,108	(67)	
Subvote Total	**10,861**	**10,978**	**10,978**	**10,192**	**(786)**	
EN10 Wildfire Management						
Forest Fire Operations	47,672	49,913	129,913	125,781	(4,132)	3
Recoverable Fire Suppression Operations	1,558	1,700	1,700	616	(1,084)	4
Forest Fire Capital Projects	1,065	4,375	4,375	4,517	142	
Subvote Total	**50,295**	**55,988**	**135,988**	**130,914**	**(5,074)**	
EN11 Environmental Protection						
Environmental Protection Program	5,408	3,841	3,841	3,755	(86)	
Environmental Assessment	1,114	1,144	1,144	1,127	(17)	
Compliance Audit	541	640	640	522	(118)	5
Technical Resources	3,339	3,457	3,457	3,328	(129)	
Beverage Container Collection and Recycling System	23,724	25,266	25,266	25,266	-	
Subvote Total	**34,126**	**34,348**	**34,348**	**33,999**	**(349)**	
En14 Environmental Support						
Strategic Planning and Performance Improvement	815	1,070	1,070	716	(354)	6
Results-based Regulation and Code Management	5,796	4,887	4,887	4,307	(580)	7
Data Management	734	751	751	865	114	8
Client Services	830	909	909	841	(68)	
Subvote Total	**8,175**	**7,617**	**7,617**	**6,729**	**(888)**	
En15 Landscape Stewardship						
Aboriginal Affairs	438	762	762	336	(426)	9
Lands	3,091	3,228	3,228	3,035	(193)	
Subvote Total	**3,529**	**3,990**	**3,990**	**3,371**	**(619)**	
Total Appropriation	**150,016**	**160,173**	**240,173**	**229,730**	**(10,443)**	
Capital Assets Acquisitions	(5,539)	(8,190)	(8,190)	(7,965)	225	
Capital Assets Amortization	9,503	10,792	10,792	10,238	(554)	
Non-spending Control Items	377			(4,415)	(4,415)	10
Total Expense	**154,357**	**162,775**	**242,775**	**227,588**	**(15,187)**	

Explanation of Major Variances:

1. Under-expenditure due to delays in the implementation of climate change legislation.
2. Under-expenditure due to reduced contract expenditures.
3. Under-expenditure reflects actual spending, including allocation of additional spending warrant funding.
4. Due to 2015 wildfire activity, there were fewer opportunities to export resources to other jurisdictions.
5. Under-expenditure due to vacancy and operational savings.
6. Under-expenditure due to vacancy and operational savings.
7. Under-expenditure due to vacancy savings, the deferral of results-based regulation projects and the migration to CRM 2015.
8. Over-expenditure is a result of work being done on the geolevy file and increased costs due to parallel infrastructure.
9. Under-expenditure due to vacancy savings and delayed projects.
10. Non-spending control items include year-end adjustment to inventory and contaminated sites liability.

The following table describes actual funding provided for third party transfers in 2015-16:

Information on third-party funding 2015-16		
Grant Amount ($000s)	**Recipient**	**Purpose**
25,266	Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres	Operating grant for the operation of the beverage container collection and recycling program by SARCAN
3,769	Fish and Wildlife Development Fund	Operating grant: 30 per cent of revenues collected by the province on certain hunting, angling and trapping licences issued
124	Saskatchewan Outfitters Association	Grant for first phase of implementation for industry-led outfitting commission
100	Petroleum Technology Research Centre	AquiStore
100	Saskatchewan Water Appeal Board	Operating grant
49	Board of Education of the Northern Lights School Division	Grant to support science-based northern school programs for early learning
45	Saskatchewan Environmental Society	One-time grant for the Northern Environmental Education Program
41	University of Saskatchewan	Operational funding for the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre
40	North East Air Zone Inc.	One-time grant payment for air monitoring
38	Grasslands Air Zone Inc.	Grant for air monitoring
35	Nature Saskatchewan	Grant to support the breeding ground search for Greater-Sage Grouse
32	Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME)	Contribution in support of the CCME business plan
31	Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	Grant to support the Lake Sturgeon Migration study
30	University of British Columbia	Grant payment for the Blue Sky program (fire/smoke model)
28	University of Alberta	Grant for the Mixedwood Growth Model calibration for black spruce in Saskatchewan
25	Canadian Water Resources Association	Grant to support a water stewardship education program
25	Prairie Adaption Research	Grant to support dendrochronology project
25	Saskatchewan Polytechnic	Grant payment for dragonfly project
22	Other - Aggregate of grants made to individuals under $4,000	15 grants were provided, ranging from $400 to $3,965
20	Beverly-Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board	Caribou Habitat Agreement – operating grant
20	University of Saskatchewan	Project on shorebird movement patterns and monitoring
16	Boreal Air Zone Inc.	Grant for the establishment of the Boreal Air Zone Inc.
15	FPInnovations	Annual membership to Wildland Fire Operations Research
15	Fur Institute of Canada	Annual contribution to maintain core operational capacity and administer program
13	Receiver General for Canadian Council of Forest Ministers' Secretariat	Contribution to Canadian Council of Forest Ministers
10	Go! Science Centre Outreach	Grant for science outreach
10	Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation	To support the 2015 Public Awareness Campaign – Moose on the Loose
10	University of Regina	Grant payment for the study on energy
7	Central Flyway Council Inc	Grant to support the Arctic Goose Banding and White-fronted Goose projects
5	Jardine, Timothy D.	Grant for Cumberland Delta Mercury Analysis
5	Sturgeon River Plains Bison Stewards	Operational support for the Sturgeon River Plains Management Plan
4	Wildlife Habitat Canada	Contribution towards the operation of the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee
29,975	Total Grants	

Revenues

The majority of revenue the Ministry of Environment collected relates to environmental handling charges, hunting, angling and trapping licence fees, forestry fees and dues and receipts from other governments for recoverable fire suppression costs. These revenues are collected on behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan and all revenue collected is deposited into the General Revenue Fund.

The Ministry's budgeted revenue for 2015-16 was $52.5 million; actual revenue recorded was $66.3 million. This variance was a result of higher-than-average fire activity in 2015-16, a litigation settlement, revenue from prescribed burns, higher-than-anticipated environmental handling charges, an increase in real property sales, and increased licence and permit sales due to favourable conditions and abundant resources.

Description of Revenue	2015-16 Budget ($000s)	2015-16 Actual ($000s)	Variance ($000s)	
Own-Source Revenue				
Other Licences and Permits	16,472	17,867	1,395	
Sales, Services and Service Fees	24,338	27,184	2,846	1
Interest, Premiums, Discount and Exchange	34	34	-	
Transfers from Other Governments	1,700	1,127	(573)	2
Other Revenue	6,507	12,242	5,735	3
Transfers from the Federal Government	3,425	7,861	4,436	4
Total Revenue Items	**52,476**	**66,315**	**13,839**	
Non-Revenue Items		-	-	
Total Revenue Items	**52,476**	**66,315**	**13,839**	

Explanation of Variances:

1. Due to increased property sales and higher collection of Environmental Handling Charges revenues than projected.
2. The decrease in export opportunities is due to the active 2015 fire season in the province.
3. Increase due to unanticipated litigation settlement, higher-than-projected bottle deposits, and commissary received, which is directly related to the number of wildfire incidents.
4. Rise in revenues mainly due to increased fire suppression costs for Air Weapons Range Agreement and Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada.

Other

Fish and Wildlife Development Fund

The Fish and Wildlife Development Fund (FWDF) is a special purpose fund the Ministry uses to support habitat protection and management throughout the province. Revenues are transferred to the FWDF based on an amount equivalent to 30 per cent of habitat licence certificates and hunting, angling and trapping licence fees the province collects. Basic expenditures relate to habitat protection through the purchase of habitat, and management and enhancement of habitat.

In September 2014, the Ministry signed a trust agreement with the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation to transfer operation and maintenance of the fisheries programming as the first phase of a transfer of the FWDF to independent agencies. On July 14, 2015, the Ministry signed service agreements to transfer responsibility for the day-to-day management and acquisition of wildlife lands to the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Nature Conservancy of Canada.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the FWDF for 2015-16.

Audited financial statements will be available at gov.sk.ca/finance under the publications section of the website.

(Based on unaudited figures)	**2015-16 Budget ($000s)**	**2015-16 Actual ($000s)**	**Variance ($000s)**	
Revenue	3,991	4,464	473	1
Expenses:				
Fish Enhancement Projects	1,661	1,401	(260)	2
Wildlife Habitat Projects	1,200	1,398	198	3
Grants in Lieu of Taxes	300	295	(5)	
Total Expenses	3,161	3,094	(67)	
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	830	1,370	540	

Explanation of Variances:

1. Licence sales were higher than anticipated.
2. Grant and contractual payments were lower than budgeted while operating costs and amortization were slightly higher than budgeted.
3. Grants, contracts and operating costs were higher than budgeted.

Impacted Sites Fund

The Impacted Sites Fund was established on April 2, 2015 by *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010* and falls under the authority of this Act. The Fund receives all revenue from fines and administrative penalties imposed in accordance with the Act. Other revenues may include gifts, donations, grants or money appropriated by the Legislature. The Act permits expenditures from the fund to reclaim, restore and remedy orphaned environmentally impacted sites and to pay the expenses of administering the fund.

The following table provides a summary of the budgeted and unaudited results of the fund for 2015-16.

(Based on unaudited figures)

	2015-16 Budget ($000s)	2015-16 Actual ($000s)	Variance ($000s)
Revenue	-	6	6
Expenses:			
Contracts	-		-
Grants			-
Total Expenses	-	-	-
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-	6	6

For More Information

The Ministry of Environment welcomes your comments and questions.

centre.inquiry@gov.sk.ca

Toll-free in North America 1-800-567-4224

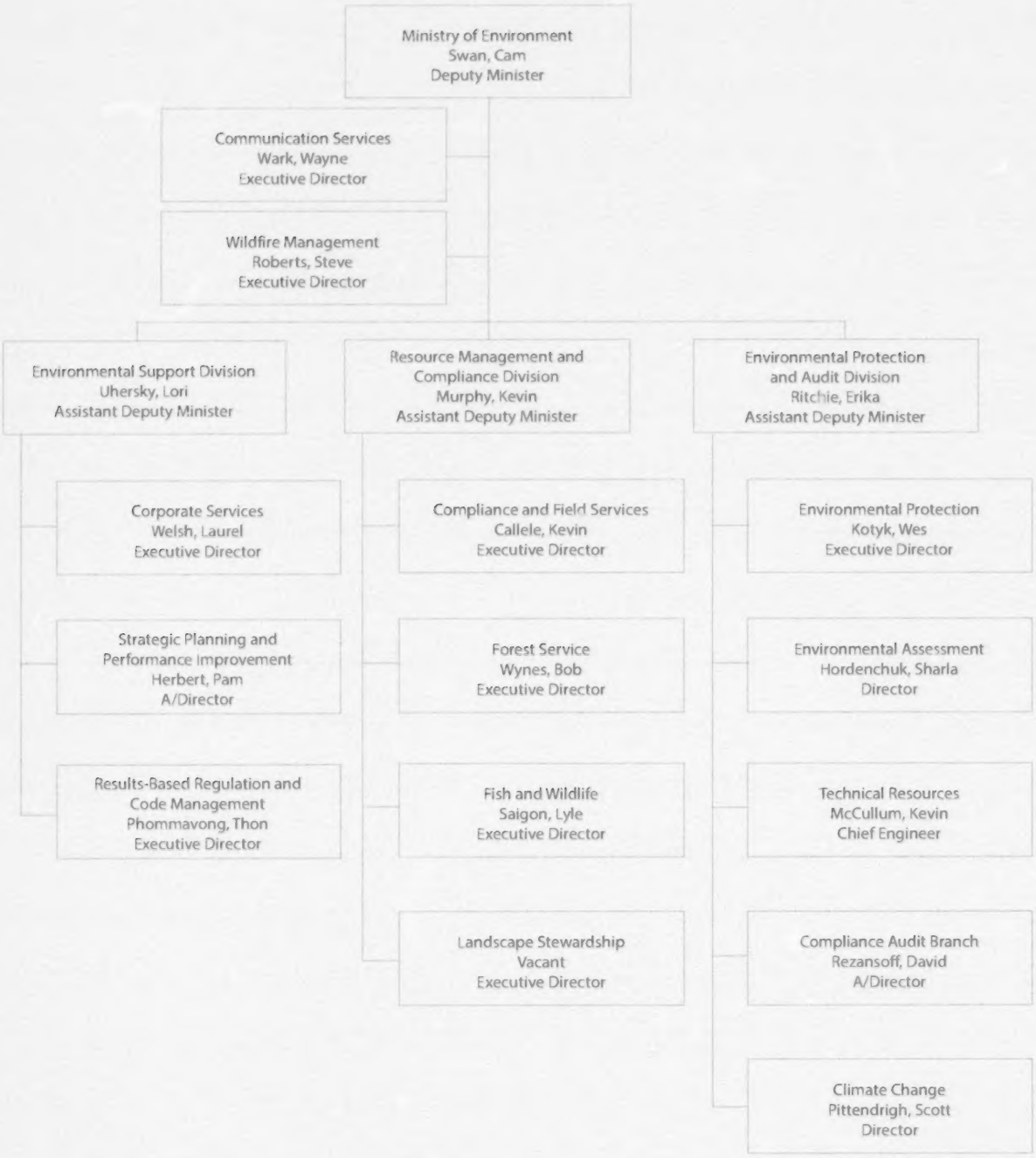
3211 Albert Street, REGINA, SK S4S 5W6

This annual report is also available electronically at saskatchewan.ca/environment.

Appendix A

Organizational Chart

As of March 31, 2016



Appendix B

Administered Legislation 2015-16

The Conservation Easements Act
Encourages private landowners, conservation organizations and governments to protect ecologically sensitive lands and natural areas through voluntary agreements.

The Ecological Reserves Act
Protects unique, natural ecosystems and landscape features through the designation of Crown land as ecological reserves.

The Environmental Assessment Act
Provides a practical means to ensure that development proceeds with adequate environmental safeguards and in a manner broadly understood by and acceptable to the public through the integrated assessment of environmental impact.

The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010 (EMPA 2010)
Protects the air, land and water resources of the province by regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances. The Act also provides a legal framework for the results-based Saskatchewan Environmental Code. Water provisions are administered by the Water Security Agency. EMPA 2010 repealed and replaced *The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002, The Clean Air Act, The State of the Environment Report Act* and *The Litter Control Act.*

The Fisheries Act (Saskatchewan), 1994
Enables sustainable management of fisheries resources by affirming provincial ownership of fish, creating a provincial licensing system, and regulating allocation of fish resources, fish marketing, aquaculture, sport fishing and commercial fishing.

The Forestry Professions Act
Establishes the Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals, an organization independent of government and industry, responsible for ensuring that its members maintain required standards for competency and conduct.

The Forest Resources Management Act
Allows the Ministry to implement a framework for sustainable management of Saskatchewan's forest resources.

The Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Act
Recognizes hunting, fishing and trapping as protected activities in accordance with the law in Saskatchewan and designates November 15 of each year as Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Heritage Day.

The Natural Resources Act
Establishes the province's mandate to manage, protect, conserve and develop renewable resources in a sustainable manner.

The Protection of the Wild Ponies of the Bronson Forest Act
Provides protection for the wild ponies of the Bronson Forest.

The Provincial Lands Act
Creates authority for the management and transfer of Crown lands. This Act is jointly administered with the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Sale or Lease of Certain Lands Act
Gives Cabinet the ability to place conditions on the transfer or lease of lands listed in a schedule to this Act.

The Water Appeal Board Act
Establishes the Water Appeal Board and enables the board to hear appeals regarding water, sewage and drainage issues.

The Wildfire Act
Provides for the management of wildfires in provincial forests, parks and on unoccupied Crown lands, including wildfire prevention and preparedness for industrial or commercial operations. It also governs compensation for conscripted firefighters and authorizes the regulation of fire bans and open burning. This Act repealed and replaced *The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982.*

The Wildlife Act, 1998
Provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife resources through the issuance and revocation of licences, the prosecution of wildlife offences and the establishment of annual hunting seasons.

The Wildlife Habitat Protection Act
Provides for the management, conservation and protection of wildlife lands and wildlife by preventing the sale and alteration of certain Crown lands.

Acts currently assigned to the Minister Responsible for the Water Security Agency are:

The Conservation and Development Act

The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act, 2005
This Act has been given a new chapter number and a new name, please refer to: W-8.1 - The Water Security Agency Act

The Water Power Act

The Watershed Associations Act

Acts that have received Royal Assent but are not in force:

The Management and Reduction of Greenhouse Gases Act
Aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting investments in low-carbon technologies.

Acts that were repealed in 2015-16

The Clean Air Act
Protects Saskatchewan's air quality by regulating emissions that originate in the province.

The Litter Control Act
Makes littering an offence and provides for the establishment and administration of a deposit refund system for various beverage containers.

The State of the Environment Report Act
Provides for public accountability in reporting of environmental conditions and activities through the preparation and release of a State of the Environment Report every two years.

The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002
Protects the air, land and water resources of the province through regulating and controlling potentially harmful activities and substances. Water sections are administered by the Water Security Agency.

The Prairie and Forest Fires Act, 1982

Acts that were amended in 2015-16

The Wildlife Act, 1998 was amended by *The Wildlife Amendment Act, 2015* and came into force by proclamation on July 1, 2015.

It was amended:

- to clarify the licensing authority for scientific permits in order to ensure wildlife research is conducted responsibly;
- to lengthen the amount of time wildlife officers have to bring charges forward for wildlife violations; and
- to implement additional hunting suspensions to ensure the most serious safety offences carry a two-year suspension, that people owing wildlife-related fines would be prohibited from buying a licence, individuals suspended from hunting in other jurisdictions would not be able to purchase a licence in Saskatchewan, and persons convicted on three separate occasions for serious wildlife offences would have a lifetime hunting prohibition in the province.

Appendix C

Permits, Applications and Notifications

Air Quality
- Operate an Industrial Source, Incinerator or Fuel Burning Equipment
- Alter, Add or Change an Industrial Source, Incinerator or Fuel Burning Equipment

Crown Lands
- Application to Purchase Crown Land
- Crown Land Disposition – Lease or Permit
- Assignment of Lease as Collateral Security
- Request for Assignment – Lease, Permit or Wild Rice Licence
- Wild Rice – Application for Permit or Licence
- Surviving Joint Tenant Lease, Permit or Wild Rice
- Surrender of Disposition Lease, Permit or Wild Rice Licence
- Statutory Declaration for Lost Lease
- Quit Claim
- Commercial Tourism Proposal – Additional Information
- Commercial and Industrial Proposal – Additional Information

Environmental Assessment
- Ministerial Determination

Fishing and Fisheries
- Competitive Fishing Event Standard Requirements
- Competitive Fishing Event Notification
- Competitive Fishing Event Application
- Competitive Fishing Event Summary
- Fish Farm Licence

Hazardous Materials Storage
- Construct or Upgrade and Operate a Storage Facility
- Decommission a Storage Facility

Hunting, Trapping and Wildlife
- Sale of Wildlife
- Export Permit for Wild Game Taken Under First Nations Bylaws
- Wildlife Import/Export
- Captive Wildlife Permit for Falconry Purposes
- Capture of Wild Raptors
- Falconry Import/Export
- Special Authorization for a Hunter with Disabilities
- Hunt With or Assist Treaty Indian Subsistence Hunter
- Mount and Retain – Statutory Declaration
- Application for a Fur Dealers Licence
- Research Permit in the Saskatchewan Provincial Park system
- Research Permit in the Saskatchewan Representative Area Ecological Reserve
- Research Permits

Industrial
- Industrial Works Construction Application Requirements and Submission Process

Mining
- Decommissioning Plan and Fund
- Operate a Pollutant Control Facility
- Decommission and Reclaim a Pollutant Control Facility
- Temporarily Close a Pollutant Control Facility
- Release from Decommissioning and Reclamation Requirements

Outfitting
- Outfitter's Licence
- Surrender of an Outfitter's Licence

Spills and Impacted Sites
- 30-Day Written Spill Report Form
- Historical Discovery Report
- Corrective Action Plan
- Closure Report and Release Responsibility
- Application for Approved Reclamation Technology
- Visual Site Assessment Checklist
- File Search and Freedom of Information Request
- Environmental File Search Application

Wildfire
- Burning Permit Notifications

Appendix D

Key Partners and Stakeholders

Ministry Services	Stakeholders Served
Wildfire Management	
• Aviation Operations • Education, Prevention, Mitigation • Planning and Interagency Assistance • Wildfire Support	• Saskatchewan residents and communities • First Nations and Métis communities • Forest industry organizations and companies • Municipalities • Environmental NGOs, conservation authorities and nature associations • Public and private research organizations Provincial and federal ministries
Compliance Field Services	
• Education and Awareness • Training • Compliance Assurance, Monitoring and Enforcement • Special Investigations	• Saskatchewan residents and communities • First Nations and Métis communities • Commercial and recreational hunters, anglers, and trappers • Municipalities, provincial and federal ministries
Landscape Stewardship	
• Crown Land Management • Land Registry Management • Oil, Gas and Mineral Exploration • Landscape Policy and Planning	• Saskatchewan residents and communities • Public and private companies operating on, or leasing Crown lands and sensitive private land • First Nations and Métis communities • Environmental NGOs • Recreational users of Crown lands • Provincial and federal ministries
Aboriginal Affairs	
• First Nations and Métis Interests and Rights	• First Nations and Métis communities • Environmental NGOs • Saskatchewan residents and communities • Provincial and federal ministries
Fish and Wildlife	
• Biodiversity Conservation • Fisheries Management • Wildlife Management • Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licences	• Land development companies • Commercial trapping organizations • Public and private environmental research groups • Saskatchewan residents and communities • First Nations and Métis communities • Commercial fishing operations • Provincial and federal ministries • Out-of-province hunters, trappers and anglers
Forest Service	
• Forestry Services	• Forest industry organizations and companies • Forestry companies with commercial licences • Saskatchewan residents with own use permits • Saskatchewan communities • First Nations and Métis communities • Provincial and federal ministries
Compliance Audit	
• Audit Services	• Businesses with permits • Provincial and federal ministries

Ministry Services	Stakeholders Served
Environmental Assessment	
• Environmental Assessment Services Applications, Public Comment and Project Review	• Industry organizations and companies • NGOs, conservation authorities and nature associations • Saskatchewan residents and communities • First Nations and Métis communities • Municipalities • Provincial and federal ministries
Environmental Protection	
• Spills and Hazardous Materials Response • Hazardous Substances and Waste • Waste Stewardship and Recycling • Landfills and Solid Waste Management • Impacted Contaminated Sites • Mining, Industrial and Commercial Sites • Air Quality • Potable and Hygienic Waterworks and Sewage Works	• Saskatchewan residents and communities • Landowners in contaminated areas • Municipalities and provincial and federal ministries • Industry organizations and companies that manufacture using hazardous substances and contaminated sites • Environmental NGOs • Recycling associations and industry organizations • Businesses with permits to operate with hazardous substances • Auditor groups
Technical Resources	
• Scientific and Technical Review Service • Environmental (air) Monitoring Service • Knowledge Management Services	• Provincial and federal ministries and Crown Corporations • Educational institutions • NGOs, conservation authorities and community groups • First Nations and Métis communities • Saskatchewan residents and communities • Public and private research organizations and institutions • International governing bodies
Results Based Regulation and Code Management	
• Saskatchewan Environmental Code • Online Business Portal • Data Information and Access Service • Spatial Information Management Services	• Provincial and federal ministries • Businesses and individuals transacting directly with the Ministry of Environment • Educational institutions • Public and private research councils and institutions
Communication Services	
• Correspondence and Legislative Services • Freedom of Information and Privacy • Public and Media Services • Production Services	• Provincial and federal ministries • Freedom of Information clients • Media organizations • Saskatchewan residents, community groups and organizations

Appendix E

Legislated Agencies, Boards and Committees

Association of Saskatchewan Forestry Professionals

- This association maintains professional accountability and ensures the competence of Saskatchewan forestry professionals for the public's benefit.
- Associated stakeholders/partners: general public.

Beverly-Quamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board

- The continued well-being of these herds requires co-ordination management, goodwill and co-operation amongst governments and the traditional users of these caribou. The board is a co-operative recommending body comprised of Aboriginal and government representatives from Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.
- Associated stakeholders/partners: one or more representatives from six caribou-using communities and the Ministry of Environment.

The Fisheries Advisory Committee

- This committee represents non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders and provides recommendations to the Ministry on matters pertaining to fish management.
- Associated stakeholders/partners: Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Saskatchewan Outfitters Association, South Saskatchewan Wildlife Association, Southern Commercial Fisherman, Saskatchewan Fly Fishing Federation Inc., Provincial Association of Resort Communities of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Co-operatives Ltd., Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and Saskatchewan Walleye Trail.

Water Appeal Board

- This board hears appeals of the decisions of the Water Security Agency made pursuant to the drainage complaint process in *The Water Security Agency Act*. (Formerly *The Saskatchewan Watershed Authority Act*).

Wildlife Advisory Committee

- The committee provides stakeholder perspective and advice to the Ministry on matters pertaining to wildlife management.
- Associated stakeholders/partners: recreational hunters, landowners, outfitters, tourism interest, ranchers, trappers, conservation organizations, Nature Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Bowhunters Association, Saskatchewan Black Powder Association, Regina Fish and Game League, Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation, Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities, South Saskatchewan Wildlife Association, Saskatchewan Stock Growers Association, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations and the general public.

Appendix F

Publications Released by the Ministry

For the period of April 1, 2015 - March, 31, 2016

Environment
- 2014-15 Environment Annual Report
- 2014-15 Environment Plan
- 2015 State of the Environment Report

Compliance and Enforcement
- Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) poster
- AIS Lure Card
- AIS Fact Sheet

Fishing
- 2015 Fish Facts
- 2015 Stocked Waters Guide
- 2015 Anglers' Guide
- 2015 Anglers' Guide – French

Forest
- 18 Forest Pest Fact Sheets

Hunting
- 2015 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide
- 2015 Hunters' and Trappers' Guide – French
- 2015 Spring Bear and Snow Goose Supplement
- 2015 Saskatchewan Resident Big Game Draw Overview
- 2015 Canadian Resident White-tailed Deer Draw Overview
- 2015 Hunting, Angling and Trapping Licence (HAL) System Fact Sheet
- Treaty and Aboriginal Hunting Rights Guide

Recycling
- MMRP Fact Sheets

Wildlife
- Fish and Wildlife Diseases in Saskatchewan Fact Sheet
- Problem Wildlife Fact Sheets (bears, wolves, cougars)

Trapping
- 2015-16 Saskatchewan Wild Fur Harvest and Cash Values

Wildfire Management
- FireSmart Ambassador Booklet
- FireSmart Homeowners Manual and Checklist
- 2015 Saskatchewan Pilot's Handbook
- 2016 Wildfire Safety Calendar